

The Illustrated LONDON NEWS

JANUARY 1985 £1.30

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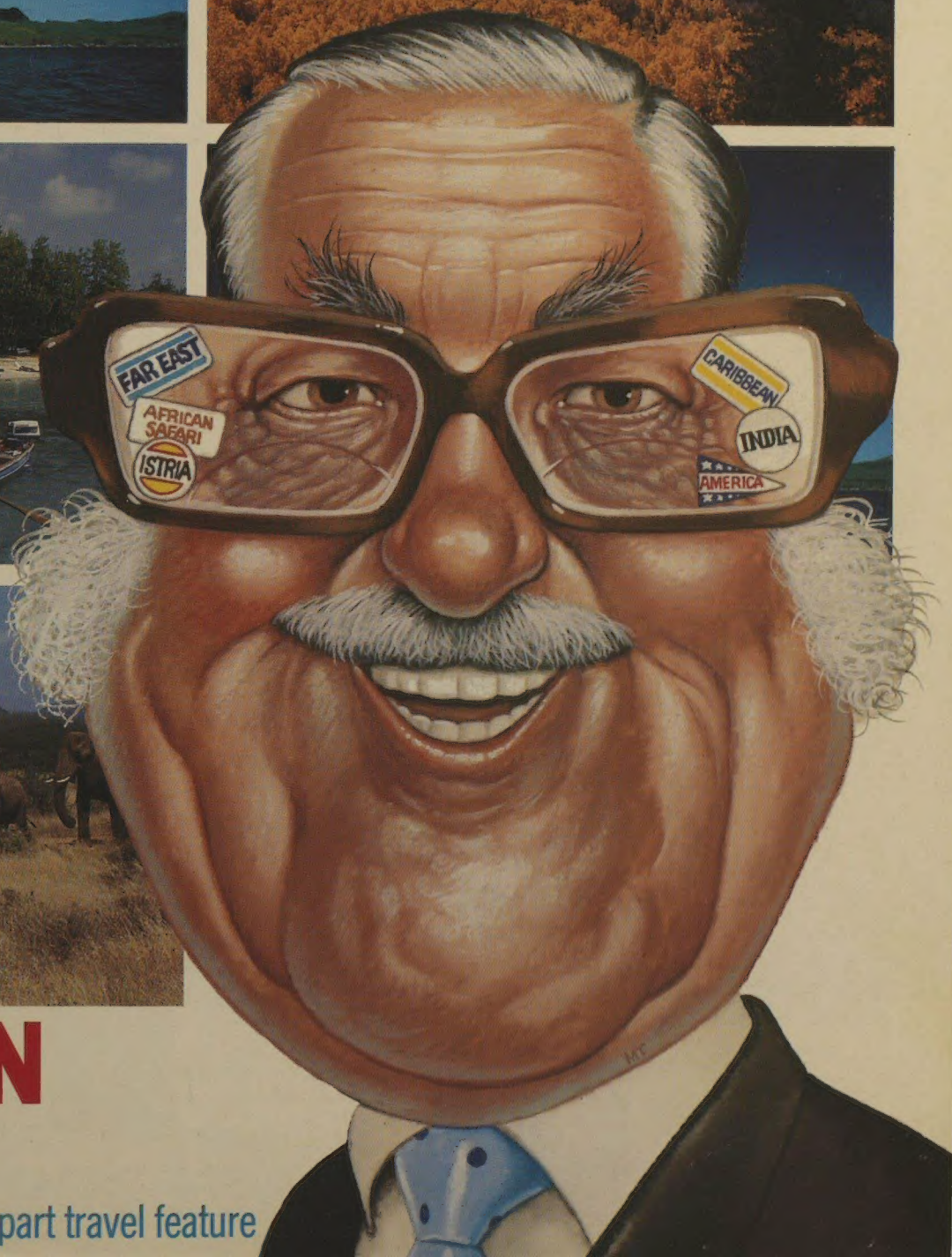
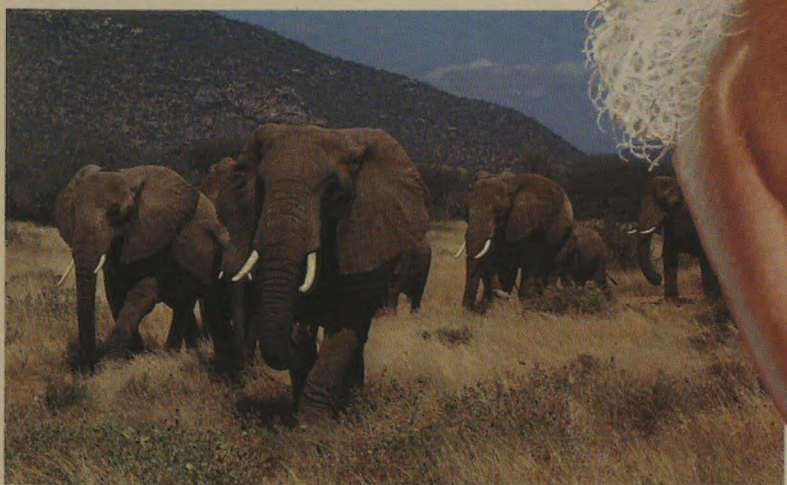
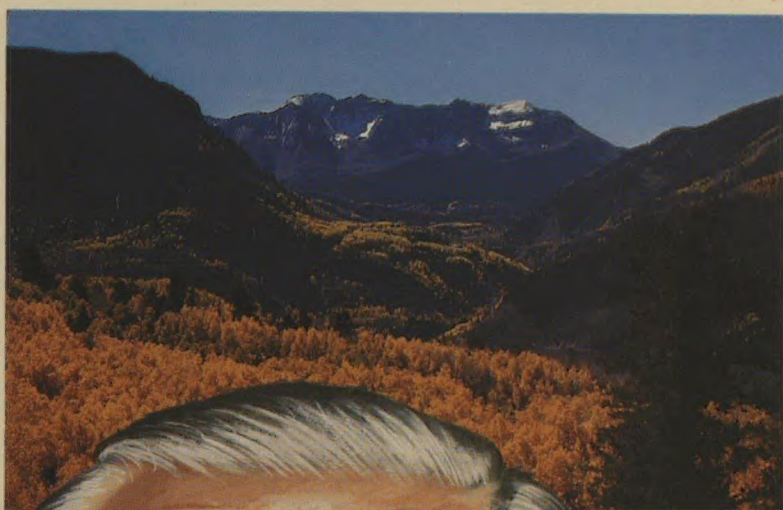
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PROPERTY

Hotel alternatives

by Ursula Robertshaw

The price of hotel rooms in central London continues to rise at a frightening rate. Currently a week in a single room at the Berkeley, including VAT but without breakfast, will cost between £665 and £840; a double bedroom and sitting room between £1,610 and £1,750; and a suite with two bedrooms about £2,590. At the Dorchester the charges would be £700, £1,540 and £2,415 respectively and at the Inn on the Park £756, £2,345 and £3,332—the last set of charges exclusive of VAT. These prices are daunting, even for businessmen who do not usually worry too much about charges which will be borne by their firms. For anyone visiting the capital privately, or for a stay of more than a night or two, they may well be prohibitive.

There is an alternative: a short-let, self-catering apartment. I recently looked at Draycott House, conveniently placed between King's Road and Brompton Road in Chelsea, where there is a range of flats available from studio apartments sleeping two people to three-bedroomed ones sleeping five. Each has its own bathroom (two in the larger flats), a fully equipped kitchen and, in the case of all but the studio flats, a large drawing/dining room. Minimum lets are from 22 days and prices are between £280 a week for a studio flat up to £775-£840 for a three-bedroomed apartment. Comparisons with hotel prices speak for themselves.

The Draycott flats are excellently and attractively furnished, each in a different traditional style. The kitchens are beautifully appointed with everything that the most exigent cook could wish for. The flats are serviced at no extra charge—the cleaning and wash-

ing up are done and the beds made every weekday. There is a private car park, regular security checks—even milk and a daily newspaper are provided as part of the package.

Extra services can be laid on if required, such as a visiting hairdresser; doctors and chemists on call; child-minding, laundry and valet services; catering for lunches, dinner parties and receptions; telex, typing in many languages, copying, dictaphone, messengers and so on for the business executive; a travel service and cars, either chauffeur driven or self-drive. You can even get advice on theatres, cinemas, concerts and other entertainments, and on where to shop. It is hard to think of a service given by a hotel that you cannot get here, and the obvious advantages of not having to rely on restaurant meals, of having somewhere to receive guests privately, and of release from the inhibitions of hotel life for those with young families, are readily apparent.

Draycott ask for a deposit of £200, or a letter of guarantee in the case of letting to a firm, to cover any possible damage and against telephone charges. Personal staff can be engaged on request. Further details from Draycott House, 10 Draycott Avenue, London SW3 (01-584 4659).

Other agents dealing with short-let service apartments include Pereds, Portland House, Portland Road, W11 (221 1404) who have, for example, one-bedroom flats from about £450 a week; Marler & Marler, 6 Sloane Street, SW1 (235 9641)—one-bedroom flats from them start at about £200 a week; and Forty Four Curzon Street, W1 (499 5108), where similar-sized flats are from £315 a week. In all cases prices vary according to situation, style and season ●



A typical drawing/dining room in one of the flats in Draycott House, Chelsea.

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Hong Kong after 1997

The people of Hong Kong seem to have accepted that the agreement worked out by the British and Chinese Governments, and formally signed by Mrs Thatcher in Peking, offers them the best terms they could have expected for life after 1997, when sovereignty of the British Crown Colony is surrendered to the People's Republic of China. Hong Kong will then become a "special administrative region" of China, but its capitalist way of life will be protected for at least another 50 years, that is until 2047. Opinion polls and other assessments of reaction in Hong Kong since the details of the agreement were published in September have shown that the majority are prepared to accept its terms, but are concerned that the Chinese government, or some future Chinese government, might not keep to the agreement.

There is no such thing as absolute certainty in relations between sovereign states, as the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, conceded in the House of Commons debate in December, but he was able to point out that China's interest in making the agreement work was at least as great as Britain's. "The whole course of Chinese reunification, which has always been a central policy of the Chinese government, is likely to be connected to the success of this agreement," Sir Geoffrey said, and there were also strong economic reasons for wishing to see Hong Kong remain stable and prosperous. MPs generally agreed with Mr Heath, the former Prime Minister, that China, once it had entered an agreement, always proved meticulous in carrying it out.

If this is what happens then the agreement can indeed be described, in the Foreign Secretary's words, as bold and imaginative. The idea of maintaining two separate political and economic social systems has reconciled the apparently irreconcilable and resolved an international problem with diplomatic finesse. It gets Britain and China off the hook and it provides for the people of Hong Kong a much better prospect than would have been likely had the Chinese acted unilaterally.

The people of Hong Kong now want to get down to details. The new constitution to replace the British colonial system will be set out by the National People's Congress in Peking as Hong Kong's "basic law". Hong Kong is hoping to take part in the drafting of its basic law, but this has not been agreed by the Chinese government. However there is to be, at China's suggestion, a liaison group composed of Chinese and British diplomats which should be able to exert some influence on the contents of the basic law. For the people of Hong Kong this will be seen as the first test of China's good intentions.



Taxing words

In the beginning was the word, and it was not taxed. At first spoken, then written, then printed and now computerized, facsimiled and transmitted by electrical impulse, it is and has long been man's prime instrument of communication. It is the life-blood of democracy, for it is on the freedom of information that people depend to exercise their judgment on who should be entrusted with their government. For the same reason it is the enemy of totalitarianism, for those who cannot tolerate opposition will not permit freedom of speech or publication.

In Britain it has long been accepted that, within the law, we are free to say what we like, and publish what we will, although this fundamental freedom is comparatively recent. It is less than 350 years since Milton's *Areopagitica*, appealing for the liberty of unlicensed printing and for the liberty to "know, to utter, and to argue freely, according to conscience", was published, and not much more than 100 years since the taxes on advertisements and paper and the stamp duty, by which successive governments had sought to straitjacket the Press, were repealed. Now it is reported that the Government is considering the imposition of Value Added Tax on magazines, newspapers and books. The damage that such a tax would inflict on all three areas of publishing is potentially so great as to constitute an attack on the principle of free communication.

The Illustrated London News, of course, must declare an interest. As a publication we

should obviously be directly affected by such a tax, and we do not operate at a level of profit that would enable us easily to accommodate the imposition of VAT, nor can we be confident that our readers will happily accept another 19½p on our cover price, which is what a 15 per cent VAT would entail. Nonetheless the *ILN* might be better placed than many other magazines, of which there are some 6,000 currently being published in the United Kingdom. The vast majority of these are specialist publications of limited circulation, but which provide vital information and communication for people involved or interested in a particular business, trade or industry, and in education, the arts and politics. Many of these publications would not survive. A study by a firm of accountants has suggested that the losses might total about 9 per cent, which means that more than 500 magazines would cease publishing. Books and newspapers, particularly local newspapers, would be similarly affected. Such losses are irreparable, and cannot be tolerable in a society whose freedom is based on the free flow of information and knowledge. When Iain Macleod, then Conservative Shadow Chancellor, first introduced the VAT proposal he declared that "on the general principle of avoiding a tax on knowledge we intend that books, journals, newspapers and broadcasting shall be at a zero rate". That principle holds good, and it is hardly conceivable that any British government would contemplate its abandonment.

JXN 85

Monday, November 12

As the National Coal Board claimed that 56,000 out of 178,000 miners had returned to work, the worst violence of the 38-week miners' strike erupted in the Yorkshire coal-fields. Petrol bombs were thrown at a police station and at police vehicles. Burning barricades were set up and shops were looted. 45 arrests were made and over 40 policemen were injured.

In his autumn financial statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson announced the provision of an extra £80 million for the setting up of new businesses and for retraining; increased payments to be made by parents in middle and upper income brackets towards their children's higher education; increases in pensions of £1.75 a week for a single person, £2.80 for a married couple; and an extra £700 million for the Health Service, but increases in prescription, dental and payed charges. He also announced the abolition of the £1 note and the 1p.

American astronauts Joe Allen and Dale Gardner completed the first space salvage operation when they pulled a rogue satellite out of defective orbit. On November 14 the astronauts recovered a second errant satellite. Both, secured to the space shuttle Discovery, were brought back to Earth for overhaul and launching.

Marguerite Duras, 70, was awarded the Prix Goncourt for her novel *L'Amant*.

Tuesday, November 13

The TUC General Secretary, Norman Willis, in a speech to a National Union of Mineworkers' rally at Aberavon, West Glamorgan, condemned violence from any quarter, including pickets. He was booed and shouted down and a noose was dangled from the ceiling in front of him.

The electricians' union, the EETPU, defied the TUC's instructions and accepted government money for postal ballots; they also decided to seek retrospective payments for ballots held since 1980—an estimated £200,000.

President Koivisto of Finland began a four-day official visit to Britain.

Diplomatic sources reported that more than 800 Afghan children had been taken to Russia for a 10-year "re-education" programme.

A fifth victim died as a result of the bomb explosion at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on October 12. She was Mrs Muriel McLean, wife of the Scottish Conservatives' president.

Wednesday, November 14

Bishop Tutu, the Nobel peace prize-winner and outspoken critic of apartheid, was appointed Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg.

Thursday, November 15

The executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers voted to continue and intensify the strike and not to hold a national ballot.

Cranley Onslow, MP for Woking, was elected chairman of the Conservative back-bench 22 Committee, replacing Edward du Cann who had held the post for 12 years.

The General Synod of the Church of England passed by 307 votes to 183 a resolution calling for legislation to enable the ordination of women priests.

The Princess of Wales named the new P & O £130 million liner *Royal Princess* at Southampton.

Baby Fac, who was given a baboon's heart by Californian surgeons on October 26 to alleviate a potentially fatal heart condition, died from kidney failure.

Friday, November 16

British Rail announced increases of up to 8.1 per cent on train fares, and an average increase of 9 per cent for Lon-

don bus and Underground fares.

Saturday, November 17

John Cunningham, who had been branch secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers at Ellington Colliery for eight years, announced his intention of returning to work and urged his 2,358 fellow miners to join him. The NUM's vice-president Michael McGahey revealed that Russian trade unions had given about £1 million, including £500,000 worth of food and clothing, to the miners' hardship fund.

42 officers and men accused of an attempt to assassinate the military leaders of Nigeria on October 1 were executed in Lagos.

Sunday, November 18

Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the Irish Prime Minister, arrived for a summit meeting with Mrs Thatcher at Chequers. At a post-summit conference there Mrs Thatcher's rejection of three options for Northern Ireland—a unitary state, a confederal system, and a joint authority—offended the Irish.

Four men, two of them British, were detained in Cairo after the failure of an attempt to murder the former Libyan Prime Minister. Abdul Hamid Bakoush. They implicated the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, and revealed a hit list which included the Prince of Wales and Mrs Thatcher. They also claimed a Libyan connexion with the killing of Indira Gandhi.

Monday, November 19

2,282 miners returned to work, taking the total number of pits producing coal to 59 out of 174. Vandals caused £250,000 worth of damage at the National Coal Board's geological exploration offices at Cadeby, South Yorkshire.

A 50p a week levy imposed by the National Union of Seamen on its members since October 1 to raise money for striking miners was declared illegal by a High Court judge, but he also ruled that the union's executive council could use general union funds to "alleviate hardship and distress" of miners' families and in support of a strike thought to be in the interests of its own members.

At least 600 people were killed and 3,000 injured when a liquefied natural gas plant exploded causing massive fires in the shanty town San Juanico, a suburb of Mexico City. More than 10,000 people were made homeless.

Tuesday, November 20

190 Poles on a cruise defected to West Germany during a three-day stop-over in Hamburg and applied for political asylum.

Miners' leaders in North Wales declared officially that they could no longer back the 39-week strike after most of the miners at Point of Ayr, near Prestatyn, and Bersham, near Wrexham, collieries had returned to work.

The Government's winter supplementary spending estimates showed a figure of £750 million as the cost of the miners' strike up to the end of October.

The 16-day strike by 7,000 workers at Austin Rovers' Cowley plant collapsed after mass meetings voted overwhelmingly for a return to work. The company's High Court action against the transport union, the only one to declare the strike official and to defy a High Court order that it should be called off pending a secret ballot, was to continue.

Wednesday, November 21

The House of Commons was adjourned by the Speaker after business was brought to a halt when about 30 Labour MPs gathered in the centre of the Chamber and shouted down the Secretary of State for Social Services, Norman Fowler, as he tried to

explain the Government's decision that £15 deducted from supplementary benefit paid to miners' dependants and "deemed to be paid" by the union, was to be raised to £16 as new benefits rates came in.

Church leaders headed by the Archbishop of York Dr John Habgood, met leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers, headed by Arthur Scargill, in an attempt to restore negotiations on the miners' strike.

The National Coal Board officially ordered the sealing of the main production face at Acton Hall Colliery in Yorkshire because of an underground fire which had raged for almost nine months. £12 million worth of coal reserves and more than £2 million worth of equipment would be written off and 500 jobs would be permanently lost. The NCB blamed the NUM for the loss, saying the union had refused to allow striking miners to deal with the fire.

British Shipbuilders announced a further 3,000 job losses on Tyneside and in Southampton.

A general strike was declared in the Basque region of Spain after a revenge killing following the gunning down of an ETA separatist leader.

Thursday, November 22

It was announced that the American Secretary of State, George Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign Secretary, Andrei Gromyko, would meet in Geneva in January to draw up an agenda for reviving arms control talks.

The House of Lords upheld the Government's decision to ban trade unions at Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham in March. The unions were to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

The High Court declared lawful police action in stopping and turning back cars carrying striking miners who they suspected might be planning to take part in mass picketing outside their own areas.

Four of Britain's leading banks cut their base lending rates from 10 per cent to 9½ per cent.

Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, arrived in Jordan under the auspices of King Hussein who called for an international conference on the Middle East at which the PLO would play a full role.

Friday, November 23

The National Coal Board said that it might have to withdraw its guarantees of no compulsory redundancies if the miners' strike continued. A gang of hooded men beat up a working miner at his home in Yorkshire; 18 striking miners were later charged with the assault. On November 24 the home of a working miner was set on fire and burnt out.

The leader of the Labour Party, Neil Kinnock, arrived in the USSR for a meeting with Soviet leaders. On November 26 President Chernenko renewed a pledge that if Labour came to power in Britain Russia would dismantle or destroy missiles aimed at Britain to match nuclear arms reductions by a Labour government.

A fire which started in a workman's hut at 10.20pm at Oxford Street Underground station put the Underground system out of action and trapped hundreds of passengers for nearly two hours. Services were disrupted for days.

Monday, November 26

The Transport and General Workers Union was fined £200,000 by a High Court judge for contempt of court in not holding a ballot before calling workers out on strike at Austin Rovers' Cowley and Longbridge plants. The union had 14 days to pay the fine before sequestration of funds.

Tuesday, November 27

The Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay, Percy Norris, 56, was shot dead by two members of the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims, a group which claimed responsibility for the assassination of Kenneth Whitty, a First Secretary of the cultural section of the British Embassy in Athens, in March 1984.

Bailiffs served writs on the National Union of Mineworkers' vice-president and general secretary, Michael McGahey and Peter Heathfield, as they were leaving a meeting with the TUC in London. The orders, which referred to bank accounts the union was alleged to have in Luxembourg and Switzerland and which the sequestrators attempted to secure to pay the £200,000 fine for contempt of court, were thrown back at the bailiff from the car in which the two men were driven away. The NUM president, Arthur Scargill, was not present at the meeting, which was attempting to lay the ground for reopening negotiations between the National Coal Board and the NUM.

The House of Lords voted by 113 to 66 to admit television cameras to cover its proceedings for a six-month trial period.

Agreement was reached between Britain and Spain in Brussels during meetings between the Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran which would enable the Gibraltar frontier to be opened on February 15 in return for discussions on the sovereignty of the Rock.

Wednesday, November 28

The Government announced a £300 million cut in regional aid: support would be reduced to £400 million in 1987-88 with aid concentrated on the worst unemployment areas to help job creation on a more selective basis.

About 8,000 students staged a torchlight demonstration in central London in protest against student-grant cuts proposed by the Government. More than 180 were arrested for obstruction and assaulting police.

General Hans Speidel, a member of the 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler and one of the founders of the new armed forces of the Federal Republic of the 1950s, died aged 87.

Thursday, November 29

The Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived in France for a two-day official visit.

A judge in Luxembourg ruled that British courts had no jurisdiction over the £4.63 million deposited there by the NUM and that the money, frozen at the request of British sequestrators, would be released save for £250,000 due for the contempt fine and costs.

Britain's unemployment figures dropped by 2,500 in November to 3,222,586, or 13.4 per cent of the workforce, due to the mid-autumn drop in the number of jobless school leavers.

Friday, November 30

The High Court appointed a receiver to control the National Union of Mineworkers' funds and removed the unions' officers as trustees.

Two miners were charged with murder after a concrete block was thrown from a bridge near Rhymney, South Wales, killing the driver of a taxi who was carrying a miner to work.

In a new outbreak of violence in Sri Lanka at least 80 Sinhalese civilians settled in the north of the country were killed by Tamil rebels; 30 rebels were killed by troops later in the day. By December 3, after two weeks of sporadic fighting, the death toll was 277.

Saturday, December 1

In the Australian general election Bob Hawke's Labour government was returned with a significantly reduced

majority after a 1.2 per cent swing to the opposition Liberal-National party.

Sunday, December 2

The rush for British Telecom shares resulted in the issue being four-times oversubscribed. A limit of 800 shares was set for each private investor.

Monday, December 3

The summit meeting of the European Economic Committee was held in Dublin amid massive security precautions. Broad agreement was reached on negotiations enabling Spain and Portugal to join the EEC, but Greece demanded £1,500 million over six years in development aid, or that country would block enlargement of the Community.

At least 2,500 people were killed and many thousands injured when methyl isocyanate, a toxic gas, leaked from an underground storage tank at a Union Carbide pesticide plant near Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh in India.

Two men were convicted of taking part in the £26 million bullion robbery at the Brinks-Mat warehouse at Heathrow on November 26, 1983, and each jailed for 25 years. None of the stolen property had been recovered despite a record £2 million reward.

The Government decided to oppose a European Commission directive to reduce sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from power stations in Britain because of cost, estimated at £1,500 million.

India beat England by eight wickets in the first Test in Bombay.

Tuesday, December 4

Two people were killed and 77 injured, two seriously, when a passenger express train ploughed into the back of a train hauling tankers of fuel at Salford, Greater Manchester, and burst into flame. The engine and two front coaches of the express were burnt out.

Herbert Blaize, 66, was sworn in as Prime Minister of Grenada after his National party won 14 out of 15 seats in the general election. He asked the US to keep its 200 troops on the island until its own security force had been formed. The defeated Sir Eric Gairy had been in power for 30 years.

Nine civilians were held hostage by Tamil separatists in the north of Sri Lanka and 43 more people were killed as violence continued.

Arab extremists hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner at Teheran, demanding the release of a number of men jailed or under sentence of death in Kuwait for bombing the US and French embassies and other buildings in 1983. Hostages were released in several batches. On December 9 Iranian security forces overpowered the terrorists and freed the nine remaining hostages. Two American officials had been killed before the rescue was effected.

Wednesday, December 5

The Government approved a concession on the proposed parental contributions to student grants in the face of a Tory backbench revolt. The £21 million cost of the concession would be partly met by an additional £10 million from the Treasury and partly by £11 million cut from the science budget.

The Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres arrived in Paris at the start of a four-day visit and for talks with President Mitterrand.

Thursday, December 6

After talks with the NUM, the Trades Union Congress's liaison group called for re-doubled efforts to bring about renewed negotiations to end the pit strike and agreed to support measures to enable the NUM to continue with its functions; it ruled out direct financing of the NUM because of the risk of being in contempt of court.

The artist Roger de Grey was elected 21st president of the Royal Academy.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

City of death: More than 2,500 people died in the central Indian city of Bhopal when the deadly gas methyl isocyanate, used in the preparation of insecticides, leaked from an overloaded underground storage tank at a factory run by the Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide. Thousands of people were treated for

effects of the gas, which injures the eyes and lungs; and medical experts feared that many of the survivors would suffer permanent blindness, paralysis and neurological disorders. Five managers at the factory were held on charges of negligence. About 1,800 gallons of the gas are stored at a plant near Grimsby.



Salford train crash: The driver and one passenger were killed and 77 were injured on a Liverpool-Scarborough express in Salford, Greater Manchester, when it ran into the back of a tanker train carrying petroleum, causing a huge explosion. Four hundred were evacuated from their homes as firemen fought the ensuing fire.

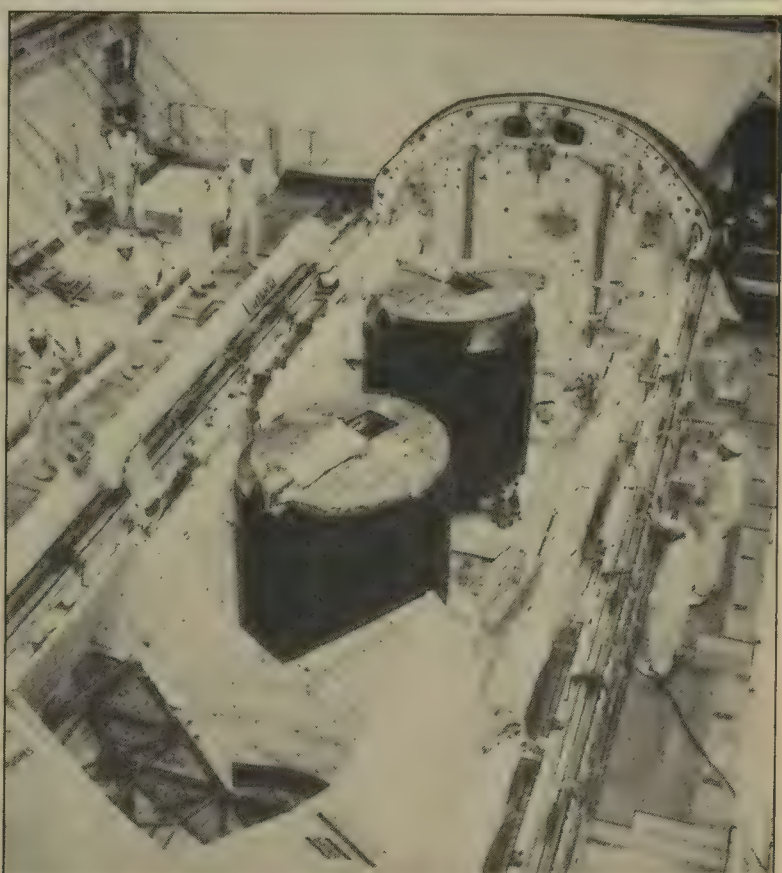
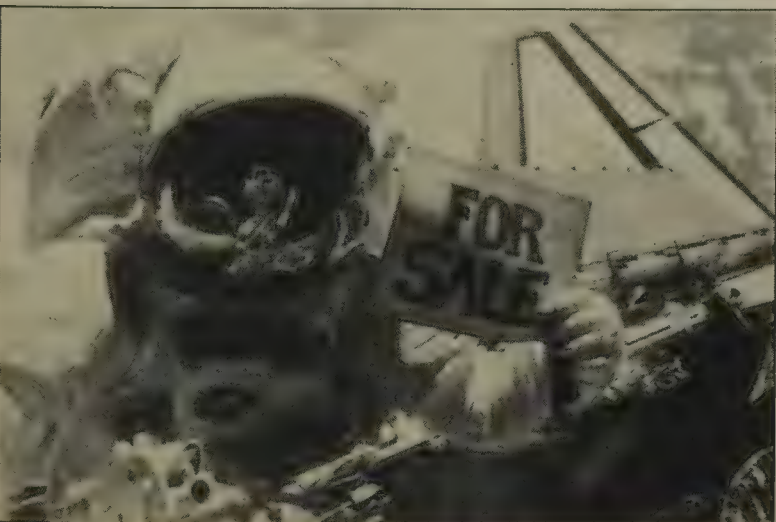
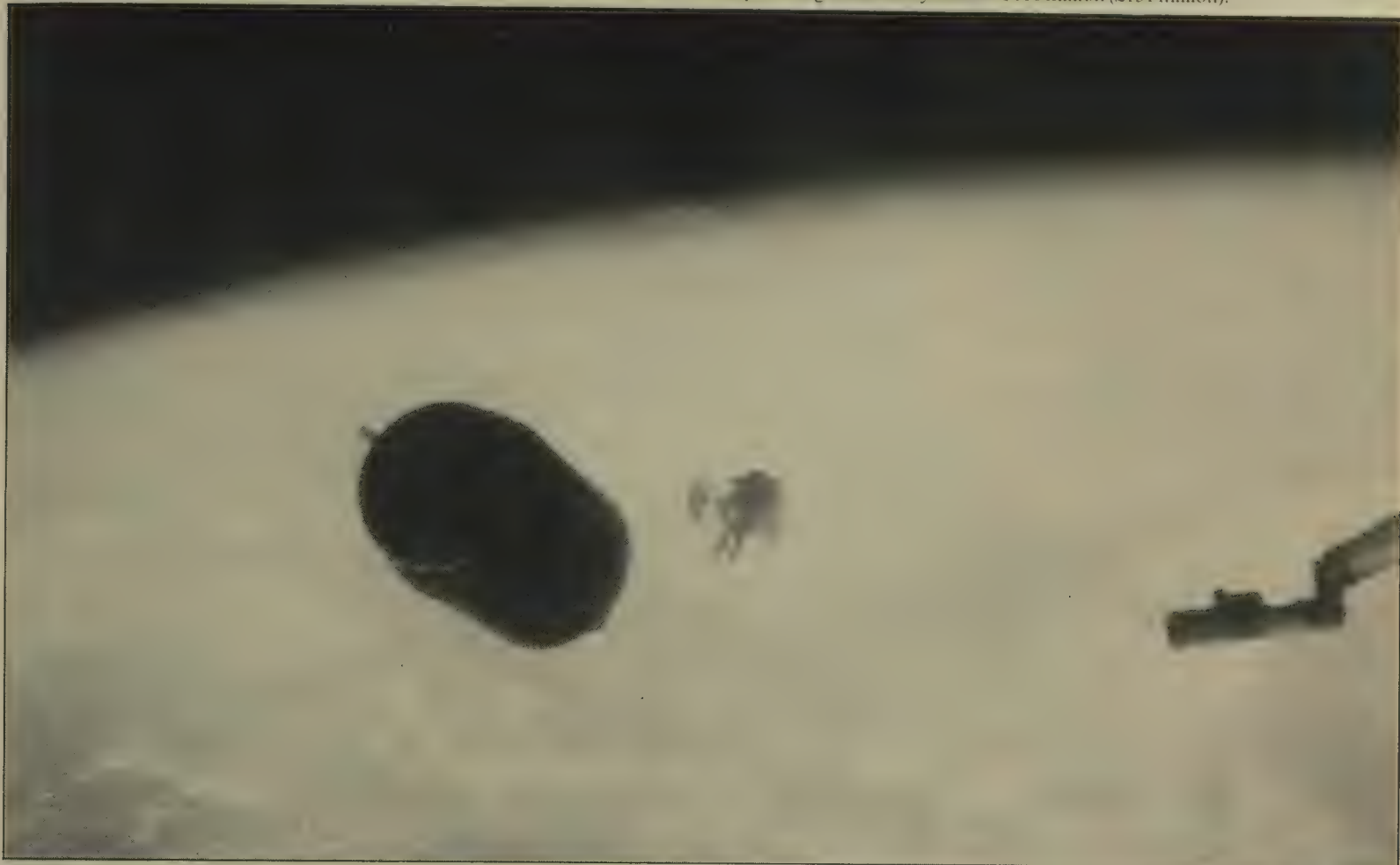


Mexico City inferno: At least 600 people died and 3,000 were injured, above and right, when 80,000 barrels of liquefied gas exploded at a state-owned plant in the poor suburb of San Juanico. Flames leapt a mile high and houses made from oil drums melted in seconds. Hundreds of people were burnt to death as they tried to escape. Firefighters, troops and 150 ambulance crews went to the scene.



JAN 88

Satellite recovery: On an eight-day mission in the US shuttle Discovery, space-walkers Joe Allen and Dale Gardner recaptured two capsules, Palapa-B2 and Westar VI, which had been in errant orbit since their launch by the shuttle Challenger last February, costing insurance syndicates \$180 million (£151 million).



Top, Gardner flies out to attach a "stinger" to Westar, which acts as a handle for Discovery's robot arm, above left, on which Allen stands to receive the satellite which Gardner manoeuvres towards him. It was then hauled into the shuttle's cargo bay. Left, Allen is reflected in the visor of Gardner, who poses on the mechanical arm after the retrieval. Above, technicians prepare to offload the satellites at the Kennedy Space Center after their return to earth.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Refugees in Hong Kong: For thousands of Vietnamese who escaped to Hong Kong their dreams of a new life have ended in crowded refugee camps.

The exodus from persecution in their own country began 10 years ago—the first Vietnamese refugees to reach Hong Kong were 3,743 on board the *Clara Maersk* in May, 1975. They continued to arrive, in craft which were scarcely seaworthy, and the “boat people” attracted worldwide offers of help.

Although most Western countries now accept only close relations of Vietnamese already settled there, they continue to arrive in Hong Kong and the colony has been left with the problem of supporting more than 13,000 people who have little hope of moving on. Many of the Vietnamese live in open camps, work outside and are self-supporting. However, desperate to discourage still more refugees, the Hong Kong government has established closed camps. They are surrounded by barbed wire, run by staff from the Correctional Services Department and are patrolled by uniformed guards. The refugees may work only inside the camps and can earn no more than HK\$2 (about £2) a week. Some families are split between open and closed camps.

In the camps, the refugees live in dormitories lined with three-tiered bunks. There are 200 people to a dormitory and each family lives, eats and sleeps in an area 6 feet by 3 feet. In spite of these conditions, most of the Vietnamese believe they were right to come and are confident they will get out one day.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong government is appealing for help. Principal Assistant Secretary for Security Operations, Clinton Leeks, says, “Somehow Vietnamese refugees have been forgotten. All we ask is that the rest of the world helps get them somewhere instead of wasting their lives here.”

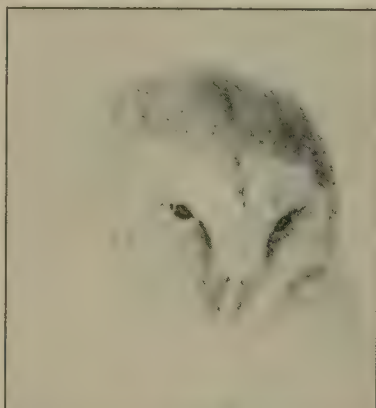


For the little girl in Kai Tak open camp in Hong Kong, top, the dormitory cubicle is the only home she has known. Comforts are few but most families have a TV set. Vietnamese refugees at Chimawan closed camp, above and right, remain optimistic despite their cramped conditions and the barbed wire which surrounds the camp.



Saving Turner's birds: A final surge of generosity is needed to raise £223,000 to save the Farnley book of bird studies by J. M. W. Turner from export. This vivid record of Turner's sojourns with his friend and greatest patron, Francis Fawkes, at Farnley Hall, Yorkshire, belonged to the latter's family and was knocked down to an anonymous foreign bidder at Sotheby's on July 12. The Arts Minister is withholding an export licence until January 13. Leeds City Art Gallery, which has an outstanding collection of English watercolours, is anxious to acquire the bound volume of 20 studies for their "vibrant character, exceptional rarity and strong local associations". So far, £187,000 has been raised from various sources.

Turner stayed at Farnley Hall, above the River Wharfe near Otley (now within Leeds Metropolitan District), many times between 1808 and 1825, also painting landscapes and shooting scenes on the estate. The bird studies are in pristine condition, and range from a robin, goldfinch and cuckoo through domestic birds to predators and game birds. They had a special fascination for Turner's champion John Ruskin. When asked if Turner had painted many birds, he replied: "Nowhere but at Farnley. He could only do them joyfully there." Donations to LACF Turner Appeal at Temple Newsam House, Leeds LS15 0AE.



Medical commandos

From Mr K. Hierons

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to read your item (*ILN*, October, 1984) about the medical commandos (paramedics) in America. Why go to New York, when we have unpublicized paramedics in this country? I work in the East Sussex ambulance service, where for 10 years we have been operating an advanced scheme in the Hove and Brighton areas.

To itemize the scheme briefly: 30 paramedics are allowed using their own diagnostic skills to intubate; infuse in cases of severe blood loss; defibrillate in ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia; diagnose electrocardiograms; and give drugs such as atropine, lignocaine, dexamethasone, glucagon, adrenaline, GTN spray and narkan. We have to pass extensive examinations and are examined by our consultant cardiologists and consultant anaesthetists. Every year we are refreshed in these skills.

We have the best ambulance service in this country.

K. Hierons

Hove, East Sussex

From Mr John Adderley

Dear Sir,

On October 21 we received a telephone call that my youngest son had been terribly injured in an accident in New York City. I flew immediately to the United States, and discovered he had been admitted to St Vincent's Hospital.

Thanks to the speedy reaction of "New York's medical commandos" [*ILN*, October] and the superb treatment he received, he is back in the UK convalescing. He is truly a living example of the excellence of their service.

John Adderley

Kitwe, Zambia

Best buildings

From Miss Kathleen Humphreys

Dear Sir,

May I put in a plea for the Bishop's Palace (ruined), St David's, which glows, even on the dullest days. And for tiny Mwnt church, perfect in its ancient simplicity, perched all alone on a lonely cliff near Cardigan.

Kathleen Humphreys

Llanfarian

Aberystwyth, Dyfed

From Mr Kenneth Wolfram

Dear Sir,

Richard A. B. Pierce's recommendation that "Bank of America Pyramid, San Francisco" might be listed as one of the world's 10 greatest buildings will never qualify as he suggests in his letter to you [*ILN*, October]. There is no such structure, unless they have

started chiselling away at the upper stories to create same.

I would suggest, though, that perhaps the Transamerica Pyramid, San Francisco, might so be listed. That is, of course, unless and until the Bank of America building is squared off...

Kenneth H. Wolfram

Santa Clara, California, USA

The Leukaemia League of 365

From Mrs Charlotte Watcyn Lewis

Dear Sir,

Would any of your readers like to support the Leukaemia League of 365 to sponsor research into childhood leukaemia? As the Women's Appeal of the Leukaemia Research Fund, the League was established in September, 1983, to raise £1,000 a day for 365 days by 365 members throughout the country.

At a reception at The Mansion House in September this year, the Fund's Patron, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, received the League's cheque from its President, The Lady Rose Nevill. The sum: £365,000. But this success has only highlighted the urgent need for research to continue and increase. In just two years the survival rate in childhood leukaemia has risen from 40 per cent to 60 per cent—but for the remaining 40 per cent time may be running out. That is where we come in.

Any offers of help would be very, very welcome.

Charlotte Watcyn Lewis

Chairman, 365 Committee

43 Gt Ormond Street, London WC1

Kipling Society

From the Secretary of the Kipling Society

Dear Sir,

Dennis Thatcher refers (*ILN*, Christmas number) to this Society as "long defunct". May I assure you that we are still alive and kicking. We have about 1,000 members, flourishing branches in Australia and British Columbia, and secretariats in the USA and Canada. We have been publishing a quarterly journal without a break since 1927; we maintain a library which is used by scholars from many countries; and the expert knowledge of our members has been appreciated by authors of important Kipling books.

John Shearman

18 Northumberland Avenue

London WC2N 5BJ

Correction

The caption to the photograph of the George VI 1d stamp, illustrated on page 62 of the 1984 Christmas number, should have made clear that this was one of the wartime German forgeries circulated in the Channel Islands.

Defence begins at sea

by Sir Arthur Bryant

Nearly 300 years ago, in 1694, when we were at war with France and our fleet had suffered a defeat in the English Channel, the Marquis of Halifax in his *A Rough Draft of a New Model at Sea* wrote that "as the importance of our being strong at Sea was ever very great, so in our present circumstances it is grown to be much greater; because as formerly our Force in shipping contributed greatly to our Trade and Safety, so now it is become indispensable to our very being."

Today Britain, a small, densely populated and industrialized island, almost wholly dependent on seaborne trade, is either ignoring or has forgotten the consequences of weakness in its maritime affairs, especially in shipping, shipbuilding, maritime defence and fishing. In the words of the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, "Britain has become 'sea blind'," although geographically she is as dependent on the sea as she has ever been.

Yet Britain's ocean-going merchant fleet, already down to 1,600 ships in 1975, is declining faster than any other national merchant fleet in the world, and will, at its present rate of shrinkage, number a mere 300 ships by the end of the present decade. This, with our ship-building industry already working at only a sixth of its modest 1975 level, is contributing £2,000 million pounds less to our balance of payments than it was in 1974. And qualified seamen from our highly skilled sea-faring population are being lost at the rate of 5,000 a year.

This calamitous decline carries with it the jobs of hundreds of thousands of other skilled workers in a society scourged by underproduction and mass unemployment, thousands of millions of pounds of national revenue and capital, including a third of the business of the City of London, the cumulative shrinkage of our maritime training and research establishments and of our formerly flourishing marine equipment industry, the loss of a controlling voice in the only means of transporting our island's international trade and, above all, the security, even survival, of the country and its people in time of war or threat of war. For our Royal Navy today—50 years ago the most powerful in the world—cannot fully meet even its priority Nato commitments, let alone tasks farther afield.

To meet this disastrous state of affairs, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, formerly Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, and later Chief of the Defence Staff, has since his retirement devoted himself to the creation and development of the British Maritime League and its associated charity, the British Maritime

Charitable Foundation. Its aim has been first to awake and arouse the concern of the general public, of commerce and industry, Parliament and the Government, to the imminent dangers threatening them and, in order to meet them, to advocate the need for a co-ordinated national policy together with its direction by a maritime committee of the Cabinet of similar status to that of the Defence and Overseas Policy Committee. It has already achieved the establishment of an all party parliamentary maritime group including members of both Houses. Among its founder members and patrons are between 20 and 30 distinguished members of the House of Lords, including Lords Aldington, Shackleton, Chalfont, Zuckerman and Caldecote and the earls of Selkirk, Inchcape, Fortescue and Kimberley, and in the Commons from the Conservative benches Edward du Cann, Winston Churchill, Keith Speed and Patrick Cormack, from Labour James Callaghan, Peter Shore and John Silkin, and from the SDP its leader, David Owen.

Most important of its achievements to date has been the publication of a small book entitled *Defence Begins at Home*, written in conjunction by

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey and Sir David Wills, setting out the risk in our present state of weakness of sudden attack by the Soviet Union and detailing the immediate steps necessary to make our existing state of deterrence effective against a non-nuclear attack. For over the past 10 years Soviet defence expenditure has risen at three times the rate of ours, and the Soviet Union today deploys in European Russia and Eastern Europe three times as many divisions for a conventional and non-nuclear war as does Nato. A dynamic and historically expansionist foreign policy is thus backed by large and well equipped armed forces geared not to the defence of Russia itself but, if necessary, to long-term offensive strategic action. Speaking in 1975, Mr Brezhnev predicted that by 1985 Russia would have achieved by a policy of *détente* all that it had formerly failed to do by one of confrontation, and that "come 1985, we shall be able to exert our will wherever we need to do so". And in his book, *The Sea Power of the State*, Admiral Gorshkov, the creator of the modern Soviet navy,

explains why. "Sooner or later the West will have to understand that it is no longer master of the seas . . . Soviet sea power, merely a minor defensive arm in 1953, has become the optimum means to defeat the Imperialist enemy and the most important element in the Soviet arsenal to prepare the way for a communized World."

"The Soviet Union," the authors of *Defence Begins at Home* point out "is well able to recognize the strategic importance of the British Isles as an entry point into Europe, a starting post for reinforcement and resupply from the United States and an essential base for the RAF and USAF. The leaders in the Kremlin, mindful of Hitler's failures in 1940, must recognize that, if they are to win any conventional war, Britain has to be neutralized."

The authors then outline the precise means by which we could still deter the Soviet Union from such precipitate action, notably by the creation of a countrywide voluntary defence force to fulfil "the functions of watch and ward for which citizens of Britain have been liable since Anglo Saxon times. Our essential task is to make the British public aware of the nature of the threat with which the Soviet Union confronts Britain," and the means by which it can still be deterred and averted.

In the 1860s, when our shipping supremacy and the skill and genius of our seamen, naval and mercantile alike, were at their zenith, a Pole of genius defined what that now vanished ocean supremacy meant to the free World. In his great novel, *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, Joseph Conrad describes a ship coming up the Channel in the last days of sail.

"The *Narcissus* entered the chops of the Channel . . . The clouds raced with her mastheads . . . The coast, to welcome her, stepped out of space into the sunshine . . . the coast, stretching away straight and black, resembled the high side of an indestructible craft riding motionless upon the immortal and unresting sea. The dark land lay alone in the midst of waters, like a mighty ship bestarred with vigilant lights—a ship carrying the burden of millions of lives—a ship freighted with dross and with jewels, with gold and with steel. She towered up immense and strong, guarding priceless traditions and untold suffering, sheltering glorious memories and base forgetfulness, ignoble virtues and splendid transgressions. . . . A ship mother of fleets and nations! The great flagship of the race; stronger than the storms! and anchored in the open sea."

She was still there in 1914, and in 1940, and it was well for the world's liberty that she was. And that liberty, both ours and others', depends on our remaking ourself what the British Maritime League would have us be while there is still time.

100 years ago



An explosion inside the House of Commons, the results of which were shown in the *ILN* of January 31, 1885, was the last of three dynamite attacks in one afternoon. Believed to be the work of a group connected with an Irish-American Fenian movement, the first was at the Tower of London and the second outside Westminster Hall. In all, five people were seriously injured and the damage was considerable.

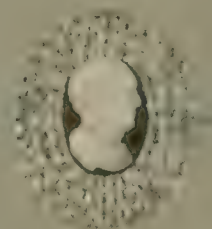


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A seventeenth century chalcodony cameo of Ganymede mounted in an early 18th century ruby and diamond set sunburst pendant

An 18th century paste cameo brooch surrounded by paste diamonds

A striated agate cameo of a woman in profile within a pearl and diamond border c.1880

A glass cameo of a youth in a gold cable link frame and suspension chain. c.1820

Shown actual size

Members of the British Antique Dealers' Association

ENCOUNTERS IN BERLIN

by Roger Berthoud



The GOC's warning

In what democratic European city does supreme power lie in the hands of foreign soldiers? The answer is West Berlin, that pocket of western-style freedom surrounded by the grey communism of the German Democratic Republic. What surprised me on renewing acquaintance with West Berlin's vital statistics was the number of Allied troops still there. Despite the vast improvements in external contacts since the Four Powers signed their Berlin agreement in 1971, almost 6,000 American, 4,000 British and 3,000 French troops remain stationed there. As a Pentagon chief once said: "We must not let the adversary have even the perception of a low-risk option."

In the last analysis it is the Allied commandants who are responsible for Berlin's government and security, though the Governing Mayor and his elected political colleagues run the city's normal affairs. "We stand here as a deterrent to any further challenge and in support of good order and the people of Berlin," the General Officer Commanding British troops and head of the British Military Government (BMG), Major-General Bernard Gordon Lennox, told me.

The General, a cool, fit-looking Grenadier of 52, received me in his imposing office at the BMG's Headquarters by the stadium built for the 1936 Olympic Games. As City commandant (with his US and French colleagues) and as diplomatic as well as military supremo in Berlin, reporting to the British Ambassador in Bonn, he has a diplomatic staff equivalent to a



Major-General Bernard Gordon Lennox.

medium-sized embassy's. Among his tasks is to maintain contact with the Governing Mayor, currently Eberhard Diepgen, with his Allied colleagues, and with the Russians; and to ensure that allied legislation—forbidding for example the local manufacture of arms—is implemented.

The Russian military, whose sector of the city was cut off by the Wall in 1961, have three "presences" in West Berlin: 20-odd troops at a time guarding their war memorial in the British sector near the Brandenburg Gate; a quarter share in the running of Spandau Prison, where Rudolph Hess remains in solitary imprisonment at Soviet insistence (a British diplomat serves as Senior Governor for three months a year); and a small staff at the Berlin Air Safety Centre, a sort of clearing house for air traffic to and from Berlin. The Russians run motorized "Flag Tours" daily through West Berlin, to show their writ still runs

throughout Berlin, and the western powers do the same in East Berlin.

Berliners do not resent the Allied role, the general finds. "The majority are still entirely understanding as to why we are here, and they are very friendly," he said. "Moreover, any change in the present stable situation could easily be misinterpreted, for Berlin remains a very sensitive receiver of political signals."

Let us hope politicians of all hues in Britain, France and the US remain as realistic as the West Berliners.

A political tonic

Led by such fine mayors as Ernst Reuter and Willy Brandt, the Social Democrats served Berlin well in maintaining morale during the trials of post-war reconstruction and painful division. But after 32 years in power they had become a spent force politically. The election victory in 1981 of the Christian Democrats, led by the charismatic Richard von Weizsäcker (now West Germany's President in Bonn) was a tonic. "It produced a psychological change not just in politics but in business," said Joerg Henschel, a senior spokesman at the headquarters of the Senate, the city's governing body at the Rathaus Schöneberg, and a Liberal.

"Before 1981 there was constant complaining. Berliners said, 'We are living under political and geographical disadvantages, you must help us.' We now point out that we have a whole lot of advantages." Among these are Berlin's size: with almost 1.9 million people it is Germany's largest city and the biggest industrial centre between Moscow and Paris; its cultural diver-



Mayor of Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen.

sity and richness; and its tradition as a centre of scientific innovation.

Not that it does not continue to welcome help: subsidies from Bonn—without strings—cover just over half West Berlin's budget. Von Weizsäcker decided that more should be spent on research and development. Among firms which have recently boosted investment are Ford, Mercedes, BMW, the Nixdorf computer company and Brinkmann, cigarette manufacturers. At around 10 per cent, unemployment is the lowest in northern Germany.

There have been other positive developments. "There was a time," Herr Henschel recalled, "when it was said that West Berlin must not fall below a population of 2 million, or it would die." Official figures, which exclude many thousands of students from the Federal Republic and other holders of West German passports, are down to 1.96 million, yet the city is very much alive. The proportion of pensioners, swollen to almost double the national average by the GDR's cynical "Pensioners only may leave" policy, has declined. So has the city's reputation for violence, which had been fostered by the Free University's leading role in the 1968 student revolution, and for anti-bourgeois activities. The number of houses occupied by squatters has fallen from 200 to four, I was told.

Eberhard Diepgen, who succeeded von Weizsäcker in February, is the first genuine Berliner to hold the post since 1948. He is a career politician, 42 years old, sound rather than inspiring, but thought to be growing into the job. He sees his prime task, he told me, as a further strengthening of confidence at home and abroad in West Berlin's viability. "Berlin has, and is, a national task for all Germans. To maintain awareness of this is an essential aim."

Berlin is indeed uniquely laden with history, and in grimmer days West Berlin served as a thermometer of East-West relations—the Berlin airlift of 1948 and the building of the Wall being the extreme manifestations. To everyone's relief, as Herr Henschel pointed out, the cooling of relations between the super powers two or three years ago had had no detectable impact on the divided city.

Into the future

So where is all this research and development, not to mention innovation, being done? Among other locations, at 65 Ackerstrasse in Berlin Wedding, at the Centre for Innovation and New Enterprises. AEG was founded at the same address in 1883.

The centre was opened in March, 1983, by the Technical University (TU) and the Senate. It now houses 19 enterprises, and has welcomed more than 3,000 visitors, many of them Japanese. Some seven years ago its youthful coordinator Heinz Fiedler explained, the TU started a unit to promote contacts with industry; scientists with good ideas for a product tended to be clueless about putting them into practice. The unit progressed from advice to



Engineer Norbert Schlamm and protégé.

Turkish factor

"Berlin is the biggest Turkish city outside Turkey," said Barbara John, the Senate's tall, confidence-inspiring commissioner for migrant workers (*Gastarbeiter*). "There are around 115,000 here, including dependants, and they are by far the largest group, followed by the Yugoslavs with around 30,000."

Around 60 per cent of the Turks have been in West Berlin for 10 or more years, she said, and, as I saw for myself, districts like Kreuzberg have a strongly Turkish flavour, though the Turks are not a conspicuous minority, as Caribbeans or Asians would be. About 5,000 have returned to Turkey over the last three years, Frau John told me, taking with them a refund of



Barbara John: helping migrant workers.

seminars to motivate potential innovators, then to providing some research facilities.

Those who succeeded proved hard to contact: they were either working in laboratories or looking for customers. For a rent and a fee the centre now provides secretarial and public relations services as well as premises. There are also three TU laboratories there, specializing in robot technology, chemical engineering and bionics. The latter's projects include a "wind-lens" which magnifies wind power eightfold by aping the structure of birds' wing-feather tips; and a lacquer suitable for boats which simulates the slime which helps give fish a low "drag-factor".

Most of the enterprises are funded by private capital. The most successful already has 15 employees a year after being started from scratch by a very engaging robot engineer, Norbert Schlamm. His main project was a robot for packing and stacking palettes. Developing one to load the tape into video cassettes, a task requiring hair's breadth precision and delicacy, was more of a hobby. But when an early model was shown on TV, firms around the world rang up. As I watched, two Puma robots (made in Telford, Salop) did the job with crisp precision—in two seconds, where a nimble-fingered girl takes 13. "But we are more in competition with a Japanese machine, which costs almost double, than with people," Herr Schlamm said.

their pension contributions amounting to DM2,000 per working year (roughly £570). "The jobs in industry for which they came are being eliminated by technology," she said.

Although migrant workers have full rights as trade unionists, they are not German citizens and cannot vote. "We assume that many second- and third-generation Turks will stay for ever. But since we are a non-immigrant country with many immigrants, we will have to reform our citizenship laws. It is the first time in history that the Germans live with a lot of foreigners, and they don't really know how to deal with them.

"We are not as skilled as the English at teaching our language as a second language. There is no systematic approach. In some areas we have to have extra classes for foreign children, which means no social integration."

Frau John speaks Turkish and has visited Turkey. She does her best to reduce the resentment of Turks in Berlin when they ask why they should pay taxation without representation—not an easy question to answer.

Central culture

To a considerable extent, German culture has transcended Berlin's ideological divide. In the Journalists' Club on the Kurfürstendamm, the veteran theatre critic Friedrich Luft told me how he continued to see the playwright Bertolt Brecht in East Berlin during the coldest part of the cold war, until



Opera Director Götz Friedrich.

Brecht made a statement condemning developments in West Germany. Luft attacked it. Contact ceased.

Luft has been *Die Welt's* Berlin critic since 1955, and has done a live Sunday radio broadcast since 1946—two years before Alastair Cooke started his radio "column", he points out with pride. His critical memory goes back to the late 20s when he saw the great Berlin productions of Max Reinhardt, Erwin Piscator and Leopold Jessner. He knew Brecht well after Brecht returned from the USA in 1946. "I was then the critic of *Die Neue Zeitung*, which sold more than two million copies all over Germany twice weekly. Brecht was very witty and caustic. He knew what he wanted—his own theatre. That is what drove him into the Soviet sector—they gave him one." Luft reckons that the place of the Berliner Ensemble, which Brecht founded in East Berlin, as the best theatre company in the German-speaking world has latterly been taken over by West Berlin's Schaubühne theatre.

Among East Germans who have enriched West Germany's cultural life is Götz Friedrich, now Intendant (Director) of the Deutsche Oper in West Berlin, a large bear-like man of warm manner and much nervous energy who 14 years ago decided to stay in the West. He came to West Berlin via Stockholm and Hamburg. "I feel here in the centre of this Germany," he told me at the opera's handsome headquarters. "We in Berlin live in a situation in which all the history of Germany, and her future, are in a special way alive. To live in Berlin means that the German question really is open—not for correcting the borders in eastern Europe, but for never giving up any way of trying to understand each other better again.

"In many other places culture is seen as an ornament of life. I like to make opera here because in West Berlin culture has an integrating function, bringing together history and the present, east and west. It does not have to follow in the footsteps of politics, but can be two steps ahead."

It was as good a summary as I could hope for of the poignancy and fascination of Berlin's role in the present and future of the German nation.

The headstrong hero

by John Woolford

General Charles Gordon was killed 100 years ago when the Mahdi's men stormed Khartoum. Inconsistent and disobedient, he was nonetheless the archetypal Victorian hero, and much of his magnetism lingers on.



A century ago the death of General Gordon at Khartoum cast England into mourning. The Prime Minister, William Gladstone, became overnight the most unpopular man in the country because it was believed that he had delayed until too late in sending a rescue force. Gordon's journals, smuggled out of Khartoum shortly before the city fell to the Mahdi on January 26, 1885, became a best-seller, and public wrath turned into public adulation of a satisfying hero.

Gordon, despite a dubious attack upon him by Lytton Strachey, has remained the popular ideal of a Victorian hero. He was disobedient, over-religious and inconsistent, but at Khartoum in his last months he was the one reliable point on which the affections of the distant British public, and of his faithful Sudanese and Egyptian soldiers, could focus.

Born into a military family at Woolwich on January 28, 1833, Charles George Gordon made his mark as a young reprobate who would release mice in the house of the Commandant of the Military Academy, and who was not above using the hats of visitors as spittoons. It is surprising to learn that

at Taunton School he made little impression except as an accurate drawer of maps. In the Royal Engineers, into which he was commissioned in 1852, he soon revealed both extraordinary ability and a shocking temper.

In the Crimean winter of 1854-55 he showed his toughness by airy remarks in letters home, such as the astounding assertion that "our wounded have everything they want, and all comforts". He showed great courage by lying out in front of the Russian lines at Sebastopol to sketch their strong points for the benefit of the British artillery, and he wrote of his disgust at the failure of the assault on the Malakoff fort: "We should have carried everything before us, if the men had only advanced."

Plainly this young engineer officer had ideas of his own that would make him difficult to control. After a boring time helping to define the border between Russia and Turkey in Bessarabia he heard of an interesting little war in China, and in his usual headstrong way got himself posted there in 1860.

His main duty was to lead the Ever Victorious Army, a peasant force raised and financed by Shanghai mer-

chants, against the Taiping rebels whose strongholds were at Soochow and Nanking. Gordon's campaign against Soochow showed fine generalship, despite the fact that in the British army he was only a major.

In the summer of 1863 he knocked out Soochow's supporting garrisons, and then so weakened it by an orgy of bribery and subversion that its surrender followed after a sharp battle in December. His nominal commander, Li Hung Chang, the governor of Kiangsu province, wrote: "What a sight for tired eyes and elixir for a heavy heart it is to see this splendid Englishman fight! . . . Fight—move—fight again—move again—landing his men—planning by night and executing by day—planning by day and executing by night! He is a glorious fellow!"

In November, 1864, the rebellion over, he left China to salutes of gongs, crackers, rockets and blazing torches, and arrived back in England with the nickname Chinese Gordon.

Perhaps his superiors were afraid of him because he was such a law unto himself but, whatever the reason, for years he was used only perfunctorily. Even Sir Garnet Wolseley, who said he

Hauling the steamer *Nassif-Kheir*, above, up the second Nile cataract was a hazardous operation for members of the British expedition to relieve Khartoum. This drawing and the portrait of General Gordon, right, were published in *ILN* supplements in 1884.

was not fit to pipe-clay Gordon's belt, did not take him on the Ashanti campaign in 1873. Instead, after a preposterous period building useless forts in the Thames estuary, Colonel Gordon RE was invited by the Egyptian Prime Minister Nubar Pasha to take over the Equatorial Province of the Sudan from Sir Samuel Baker.

In April, 1874, Gordon reached Gondokoro with a ragbag full of European assistants, many of whom soon died of malaria. Gordon himself appeared almost immune to the disease. Nearly as tough as an Italian he had met in the Crimea, Romolo Gessi, one of Garibaldi's veterans. Gordon described him as a "cool, most determined man. Born genius for practical ingenuity in mechanics. Ought to have been born in 1560 not 1832. Same disposition as Francis Drake."

For most of three years Gordon



MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES GEORGE GORDON

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE SUDAN

battled it out in the Equatorial Province, with hardly a white man to talk to for long except the invaluable Gessi. He penetrated to within 60 miles of Lake Victoria, and at one time almost annexed for the Khedive the territory of Chief M'tesa of Uganda. The trouble was, "M'tesa has annexed my soldiers, he has not been annexed himself," and Gordon was only too pleased to pull his malaria-soaked Egyptian troops out of Uganda. Nothing came of his plan to annex huge areas of East Africa, so giving the Khedive a vast seaboard. Administrative posts were set up along the Nile to Lake Albert and beyond, and the writ of sporadic law and order was stretched out away from the river instead of being confined to it.

In December, 1876, he was back in Cairo, having "made up my mind to

serve HH no longer". But the Khedive Ismail knew Gordon, and "the end of my interview with HH was that I agreed to go back, so much for making up my mind". After less than six weeks in England, early 1877 saw him in Egypt again.

This time he wanted the whole of the Sudan, and full power over it. He saw the Khedive Ismail—"Then I began, and told him all; and then he gave me the Sudan, and I leave on Saturday morning," wrote Gordon gleefully to his sister Augusta, his main confidante. His salary was £3,000 a year.

The next three years, until the end of 1879, were probably the most fulfilling of Gordon's life. Riding in from Massawa on the Red Sea, he reached Khartoum early in May, 1877, where he brought in some instant reforms, such as abolishing the use of the courbach—

a heavy rhinoceros hide whip that was the main instrument used for collecting taxes. Another reform was the speedy piping of Nile water into the town, then an unheard-of boon.

Then he was off on his camel again, visiting the western areas of Kordofan and Darfur, where tribes under Suleiman Zebeyr had risen against the Egyptian government. In the end Gessi, in his last service to Gordon, caught Suleiman and shot him.

By late 1879 Gordon had had enough and, after an abortive visit to Ethiopia, to try to patch up peace between the Khedive and the Negus, he resigned. "I cannot think that any people like being governed by aliens in race or religion," he wrote. "They prefer their own bad native government . . ." Yet the Sudanese had great respect for Gordon, and years later he

was remembered by an old Sudanese as "a man of God". Gordon himself hit the nail on the head when he wrote, "the only regret is that I am a Christian. Yet they would be the first to despise me if I recanted and became a Mussulman." Christian he might have been, but in the Sudan it counted for much that he was at least devout.

There followed a brief and amusing period in Mauritius, where Gordon decided, not very scientifically, that the existence of the fruit of the coco de mer proved he had stumbled on the site of the Garden of Eden, and then in 1882 he was off to Cape Colony to try to sort out the Basuto problem. Here he had little success, as he went against orders and gave the Basuto to understand that he would not lead an expedition against them at the very time that the Cape government was preparing one.

For most of 1883 he lived near Jerusalem, where he undertook religious research. His views on subjects like the exact position of Calvary are still taken seriously by some scholars.

In Egypt the Khedive Ismail had been succeeded by the Khedive Tewfik, and the bankrupt country had been taken over reluctantly by Gladstone's Liberal government, assisted by Wolseley and the British Army. The new British ruler of the country was Sir Evelyn Baring, later Lord Cromer, whom Gordon did not much like. Most of Gordon's sympathies were with the Egyptians, especially as they were less likely to give him unwelcome orders. Things were complicated by the appearance of the Mahdi in the Sudan, a Muslim holy man, Successor of the Prophet of God, who announced clearly, "Whosoever doubts my mission does not believe in God or his prophets, and whosoever is at enmity with me is an unbeliever." Quite simply, he roused most of the country against its Egyptian occupiers, and his followers laid siege to most of the Egyptian garrisons.

Gladstone's government, having taken over Egypt, however unwillingly, was now landed with the problem of the Sudan as well. If they had clearly understood that from the beginning, the tragedy that followed might not have happened. As it was, they could not make up their minds either to conquer or to abandon the Sudan. In November, 1883, a half-hearted attempt at conquest ended when Hicks Pasha's force of terrified Egyptians was obliterated by the Mahdi in the desert west of Khartoum.

Largely through the intervention of Baker, Gordon—now a Major-General—was persuaded, not unwillingly, to go to the Sudan. The Foreign Secretary, Lord Granville, wired to Baring in January, 1884, that Gordon would go to Suakim to report on the situation, and to "consider the best mode of evacuating the interior of the Sudan . . ." He would be under Baring's orders. Gordon, after extricating himself from a half promise to run the Congo for Leopold II, went to Cairo on January 25. With foreboding ➡



The headstrong hero

Baring wired Granville: "It is well that Gordon should be under my orders, but a man who habitually consults the Prophet Isaiah when he is in a difficulty is not apt to obey the orders of anyone." Nervously, Granville wondered if the government had blundered.

On arriving at Khartoum on February 18 with Colonel J. D. H. Stewart as his "wet nurse", Gordon announced he would allow slave dealing as before, and that taxes for 1884 would be halved. His welcome was a warm one, and he allowed disaffected people to leave the city and join the Mahdi. On February 26 Stewart actually got more than 2,000 people away from Khartoum down river, as the first part of the proposed evacuation.

Then, on March 10, "The tribes have risen between here and Berber and cut our route," Gordon scribbled to Augusta. Only in August did Gladstone and Granville send a relief expedition under Wolseley.

On the same day that the first lot of refugees left, Gordon had wired Baring, "Of course my duty is evacuation and the best I can do for establishing a quiet government. The first I hope to accomplish. The second is a difficult task and concerns Egypt more than me. If Egypt is to be quiet the Mahdi must be smashed up. Mahdi is most unpopular and with care and time could be smashed."

This communication frightened the Cabinet in London, although there was nothing in it that suggested Gordon would not go ahead with evacuation. It was in his estimate of the unpopularity of the Mahdi that he was most astray, and that fact in itself was not so surprising when it is realized that, for all his experience, Gordon spoke hardly any Arabic.

Stewart, who was as level-headed as anyone, told Baring before the line was cut that Gordon was the last person who would leave Khartoum unless he could get all his troops away as well. Gordon was calling for Rhama Zebeyr, father of the rebel Suleiman, to be sent from Cairo as a counterweight to the Mahdi, and to keep the northern tribes quiet. Zebeyr had been exiled earlier as a notorious slave-trader, but to Gordon and Stewart there was no alternative. Valiantly the impeccable Baring argued Gordon's case with Gladstone and Granville, but to no avail.

On April 23 Gladstone's Cabinet sent Gordon a question that was not smuggled into Khartoum until July 29—"state cause and intention in staying in Khartoum, knowing government means to abandon Sudan"—and Gordon replied, "I stay at Khartoum because the Arabs have shut us up, and will not let us out. I also add that even if the road was open the people would not let me go, unless I gave them some government or took them with me..." The prelude to the tragedy was pure comedy.



Public wrath, and the pressure of Wolseley, at last got the relief expedition going. By October Wolseley was advancing slowly up the Nile. Would he reach Khartoum in time? Britain held its breath.

Gordon did not help matters by sending out floods of messages that suggested he could hold out for months, but at last, on September 8, he sent Stewart out of Khartoum by steamer down the river with a note for Baring: "How many times have we written asking for reinforcements?" Stewart never got to Dongola, and was killed only a few hours away from a camp under Major Herbert Kitchener. It was not until January 8, 1885, that Wolseley sent Sir Herbert Stewart—no relation to Gordon's right-hand man—across the desert from Korti. On January 19 he was killed in a battle with the Mahdi's men, and Sir Charles Wilson, on whom command devolved, rested for three vital days at Metemeh.

Wilson got Gordon's journal on January 21, and also a scribbled note dated December 29—"Khartoum all right, could hold out for years"—which seems to have been a blind, written in case the messenger was caught. On January 24 Wilson moved upstream with two steamers; on the 28th, which would have been Gordon's 52nd birthday, they came in sight of Khartoum and saw there was no flag on the Governor's palace.

The Mahdi's forces had made their final attack early on the 26th, having been held at bay for 10 months by one

The *ILN* portrait of General Gordon, and other exhibits, above left, displayed in the Khalifa's house in Omdurman, now a museum. The *Bordein*, above, used by Gordon and sent, with his journals, to meet the relief expedition, lies rotting in a Khartoum dockyard.

of the most resolute defences in history. Gordon was probably killed while fighting, sword in hand, and not as the martyr depicted by George W. Joy in his picture of the imagined scene.

It has been suggested that Gordon had a death-wish, but there is nothing in his journal to imply he sought death at Khartoum. True, he looked forward to an after-life, but as he said once to his sister, a schoolboy was quite right to long for a holiday and yet would be quite wrong to run away from school. The accusation that he was homosexual seems equally untrue. His labours on behalf of destitute boys in London were effective and innocent, and his letters to them over the years were transparently innocuous. His private life was supremely uninteresting. His public life captivated the Victorians, as did his death.

We can feel some of this magnetism across the last century. In South Africa Cecil Rhodes, money-mad but romantic, could only keep repeating: "I wish I had been with him," when he heard of his death. In the Sudan Wolseley withdrew his forces, and Major Kitchener had to wait a dozen years before setting out with even larger forces on his road to Khartoum.

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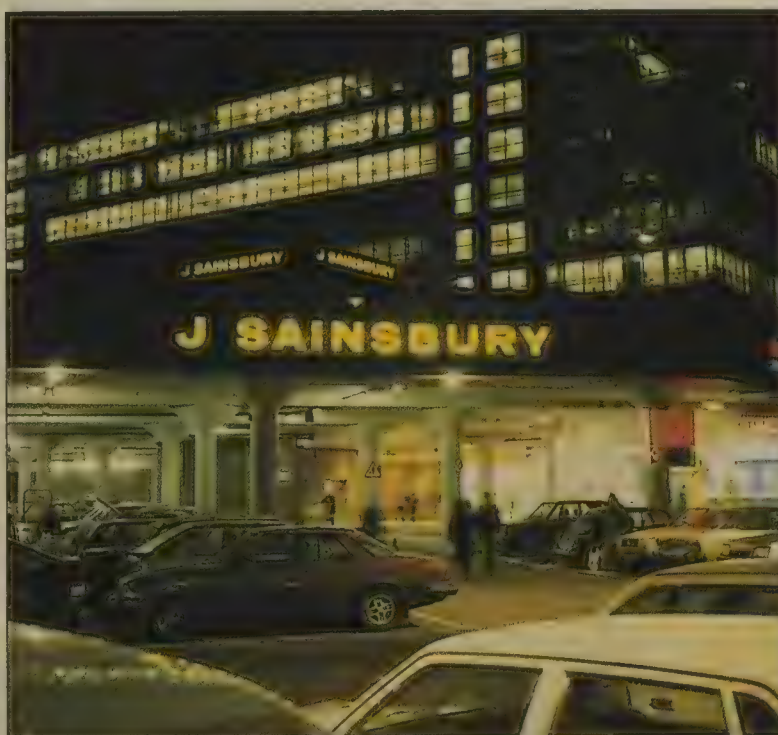
by Carol Kennedy

Sainsbury's, whose first grocer's shop opened 116 years ago, led the way in self-service shopping in the 1950s. Their gigantic success is built on this progressiveness, and on the principles of a small family business in which flair and attention to detail and to the individual remain paramount.

Every week the chairman of Sainsbury's has an important appointment in his modestly furnished, fourth-floor office in Stamford House, the grocery chain's massive brick headquarters—once a warehouse and cheese store—tucked away at the southern end of London's Blackfriars Bridge. This is when around a dozen new food products due to be marketed under the Sainsbury label meet the highly trained taste-buds of Sir John Sainsbury, fourth-generation head of a company that has built a gigantic success and sales approaching £3,000 million a year on the principles of a small family business.

"It's a family tradition that the head of the company has a good palate," said Sir John, who went into Sainsbury's grocery buying side after graduating from Oxford in 1950 and won his spurs running first the biscuit trade and then the bacon department. "To this day he can tell, blind, the amount of rusk, pepper and so forth in a sausage," said Peter Davis, assistant managing director responsible for buying and marketing. "He was buying biscuits when Hector Laing (Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits) was selling them, and he can still look at a biscuit, break it and comment on it in a detailed way. He has a marvellous instinct and flair for what customers want."

Sainsbury's launches about 300 own-brand food products each year to join 2,000 others at present among the 9,000 lines on the shelves of a large branch like the Cromwell Road store, on the site of the old West London Air Terminal. Own-label products account for more than half of Sainsbury's



The Cromwell Road store in London, one of the largest, opened in November, 1983.

trading, and each will have been the decision of a departmental director—"one man, not a committee," says Davis. "In most companies these decisions are delegated further down the line." All are personally tasted by several senior executives, including Peter Davis, before arriving in the chairman's office, but there are still occasions—perhaps one or two a year—when Sir John will say "No". His judgment ultimately determines what goes on the shelves.

"I always feel that if you can't distinguish quality at the top you can't

blame people down the line," he says. Recently, he and Davis went in blind for one of the so-called "MoT" palate tests that all Sainsbury's 300 buyers periodically undergo, and came out with flying colours.

Personal flair, an eye for detail and attention to customers and staff as individuals, not numbers—the classic virtues of the well run small business—are common to many successful retailing operations. What has ensured Sainsbury's prosperity over the years, when other famous old names in the grocery business like Lipton's, David Greig,

and Home & Colonial faded or went under, is the ability of this tightly run family company to adapt to changing social trends and, indeed, lead the way, as Sir John's father Alan Sainsbury, now Baron Sainsbury of Drury Lane, did in 1950 when he began the process of turning all Sainsbury's counter-service shops into American-style self-service stores.

It was not an overnight revolution—indeed, the last of the old-style Sainsbury's, in Rye Lane, Peckham, only went self-service in 1982—but it had a profound effect on British shopping habits. It greatly enlarged the choice of foods going into the weekly shopping basket (from 500 lines in 1950 to the 8,000 to 9,000 of today); kept prices low through sheer volume of sales; caused the demise of many old-fashioned high-street grocers and, in recent years, acknowledged the importance of shopping by car and the unpopularity with women of the multi-storey car park. Sainsbury policy now is to have car parks on one level adjoining their newest supermarkets wherever possible.

Sir John Sainsbury has pointed out that weekly groceries for the average family of two adults and two children weigh about 70 pounds and fill three or four carrier bags. "I often feel that those who question the importance of the car and good car parking facilities close to the food shop have never had to carry the groceries home," he said in 1981.

Today, 116 years after John James Sainsbury opened his first grocer's shop at 173 Drury Lane (hence the present Lord Sainsbury's title), the chain has expanded to some 250 food >>>



Keeping up with the consumer

stores. Though in number not much changed from 1950, the current stores have almost all opened since then and now handle 20 times the trade. About 15 new ones open each year. There are also 23 Homebase outlets in the do-it-yourself and garden centre market—a venture with Belgian partners—and six SavaCentre hypermarkets, owned 50-50 with British Home Stores.

The selling space in a Sainsbury's averages between 20,000 and 25,000 square feet, with the average for all stores being 50 per cent more than 10 years ago. Volume sales remain secret, but the chain does more than six million transactions each week and the average Sainsbury's turns over £23,000 a week and £13.85 per square foot of selling space, one of the highest figures in the world for supermarkets. The company accounts for 8.4 per cent of Britain's food and drink trade (its highly regarded range of wines makes it the country's largest wine merchant), and in the half-year to November, 1984, pre-tax profits were up by 20 per cent on the comparable period of 1983. The company's rise in sales to £1,660 million represented an increase of 17.5 per cent.

The Sainsbury family is acknowledged to be one of the wealthiest in Britain, but what is little known are the benefits that accrue to the community from the substantial family trusts, helping, among other ventures, to finance new businesses through local enterprise agencies. David Sainsbury, a cousin of the chairman, is finance director of the firm, but Sir John's brother Tim, a Conservative MP and assistant Government Whip, is no longer on the board.

The beginnings of the family were humble but determined, in the best traditions of Samuel Smiles. His book *Self-Help* was published just 10 years before John James Sainsbury, aged 25 and newly married to Mary Ann Staples, the daughter of a north London



Top, Sainsbury's at Rye Lane, Peckham in 1931, the last counter-service branch to close, in November, 1982. Above, the first self-service supermarket at London Road, Croydon, in 1950. Right, Sir John Sainsbury, fourth-generation head of the company.

dairyman, opened his dairy business in Drury Lane in the spring of 1869. The original shop only closed in 1958, with the replacement supermarket itself closing in 1975.

Young Sainsbury had grown up among the street markets of the New Cut in Lambeth, where hygiene was unknown and crowds jostled round food displayed on open stalls. Food standards were beginning to improve under various acts of Parliament and, as London expanded in the thrust of Victorian industrial prosperity, there were more mouths to feed and there was more money to spend on food. From the moment the newly wed Sainsburys opened their dairy selling butter, milk, eggs, and later on, cheese, they prospered. The couple lived over the shop and their first ambition was to have a branch for each son born into the family. By the time their six sons (they also had five daughters) were of an age to run a shop, however, they were well outnumbered by the Sainsbury branches.



From the start J. J. Sainsbury had a shrewd eye for business beyond the foodstuffs he purveyed. He always chose the centre of a row of shops rather than a corner site (if the business did well and the shops either side fell vacant, he could easily expand his selling space). He believed in buying rather than renting premises, which broadly remains the company's preferred policy, although today it has a mix of freehold and leasehold properties. Those first Sainsbury shops were designed to a distinctive pattern: long, lined with marble-topped counters,

with room for a woman to push a pram down the length of the shop. The floor was tiled for hygiene and the shop-front had a handsome wrought-iron fascia with the Sainsbury name picked out in gilt. Brightness and cleanliness were the paramount themes: John James's dying words in 1928 were "Keep the shops well lit."

At the beginning they were concentrated in "working-class areas" of London. By 1891, when the firm's headquarters moved to the present site in Blackfriars, it had more branches than its depot in Kentish Town: Blackfriars gave access to the meat market at Smithfield, the poultry market at Leadenhall Street, the centre of the imported provisions trade in Tooley Street and the main railheads. It was the signal for dramatic expansion, and by the outbreak of the First World War there were 115 branches—still small bore, however, compared to Lipton's 500 branches in the 1920s, and the 400 Home & Colonial.

J. J. Sainsbury was more concerned with quality than vast numbers of stores. Like that other brilliant family-run retail business Marks & Spencer, he laid down precise specifications to his suppliers, in return keeping producers in close touch with market information and changing customer

tastes. In 1896 one link between retailer and supplier became an intimate part of the business when John Benjamin Sainsbury, eldest son of the founder, married Mabel van den Bergh of the Dutch margarine family.

Some suppliers have been doing business with Sainsbury's since the 1890s, and Frank Sainsbury, J. J.'s third son, began the firm's direct interest in production when he set up as a poultry farmer in 1902. He built up a huge network of egg suppliers and pioneered egg grading and testing.

J. B. Sainsbury took over as chairman on his father's death in 1928 and in the 1930s, as the chain expanded outwards from London along suburban railway lines and the Underground, branches became organized into six departments: groceries, bacon and cooked meats, fresh meat, dairy produce, poultry and game. Even in the 1960s you could still buy butter skilfully put into 1lb slabs and wrapped in the old way at some Sainsbury shops, but the self-service revolution was by then well under way.

There is some doubt as to which grocery chain opened the first self-service store in Britain. Tesco had experimented with the idea before the war, but it was Alan Sainsbury, a Labour Party supporter who as a young man had seemed more attracted

to social service than to the family business, who made it company policy. In 1949 he and a fellow director, Fred Sainsbury, went to the United States at the suggestion of John Strachey, Minister of Food in the Attlee government, to see what the British food industry, then still in the iron grip of rationing and shortages, could learn from the American development of frozen foods. Some frozen foods had been on sale in Britain before the war, but stored and presented in a very rudimentary way.

"We visited New York, Buffalo, Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston and were thrilled by the possibilities of self-service stores," recalled Lord Sainsbury. Still known, by affectionate custom, as "Mr Alan", he is Joint President of Sainsbury's with his brother Sir Robert and at 82 still works in an office in Stamford House. "For about 14 days we were never out of American supermarkets, and we were both convinced that that was the future for J. S."

"Firstly, we couldn't visualize a return to the old type of trading. Many of our branches had been physically damaged during the war, some destroyed. Also, one realized that with rising living standards no old-fashioned counter service shop could offer the customer of the future the



range of choice that would be expected with a higher standard of living.

"Now, in my opinion, the firms that are successful in retailing are those which adjust to changing social circumstances. In our case we saw those as first, a rising standard of living; second, mobility, with more and more families having motor cars; and third, the factor of domestic refrigeration—the ordinary fridge to begin with, and then the freezer."

On their return from the States, Sainsbury, then joint general manager with his brother, and Fred Sainsbury successfully "indocrinated" the board to the idea, but some of Sainsbury's old-established customers were not so easily persuaded. Self-service meant the dropping of deliveries, telephone ordering, credit facilities and other accepted facets of middle-class shopping before the war. One irate customer in Purley, a judge's wife, swore colourfully at Alan Sainsbury for expecting her to serve herself. Another woman threw her wire basket at him.

The firm's bigger competitors watched sceptically. International Stores (now owned by British American Tobacco) and Unilever, which at that time controlled Lipton's, Home & Colonial and Maypole Dairies through Allied Suppliers, were con-

The Cromwell Road store has a bakery and fish counter, and a range of wines.

vinced the British public would never take to American-style trading—they wanted personal service.

"I have a theory," said Lord Sainsbury with a chuckle, "that success in business, as in war, depends not so much on your own virtue and foresight as on the mistakes of the opposition. They all thought I was totally wrong. Allied Suppliers' chairman said: 'We still may have faith in the small shop and still find it very profitable.' So when our first purpose-built self-service store opened, in Lewisham in 1955 (the largest in Europe at that time, at 7,500 square feet of selling space), and they tried to find out how it was going, I'd make out we were having a lot of difficulties. Indeed, we did have a lot to learn..."

Sainsbury's judgment was, of course, vindicated by commercial history, and other firms converted too late to catch the tide. By the time he retired as chairman, in 1967, the business his father had been offered £11 million for back in the 1930s was worth more than £100 million. For a reluctant businessman ("I drifted into the firm chiefly because my mother said it would break my father's heart if I didn't"), he pursued the profit motive with

Keeping up with the consumer

commercial acumen, though always giving priority to the concept of the best quality food at the lowest prices.

In this interest he fought a fierce battle against trading stamps in the 1960s, believing them a gimmick which raised the cost of distribution and refusing to associate the Sainsbury image with them. (Likewise, the company has never offered loss-leaders.) In the end the trading stamp boom collapsed, as did some of the stores which avidly promoted them.

Sainsbury's celebrated its centenary still a private company, but in 1973 John Sainsbury (he was knighted in 1980) and the rest of the family decided the time had come to open up the ownership of the business, and the company went public in the most over-subscribed flotation seen up to that time. "We were in the forefront of spreading share ownership among employees," recalled Sir John, "and we're very proud of the fact that a third of our shareholders are staff." About 35 per cent of Sainsbury's staff choose to take equity under the firm's profit-sharing scheme, and about 14,000 staff members, 22 per cent of the payroll, are shareholders.

The City's bullish response to the new public company was quickly justified, with the 1974 annual report registering a year of record sales and profits despite increasingly adverse trading conditions as inflation rose and the "oil shock" recession began to bite. Growth has maintained a vigorous record over the past 10 years, with current (taxed) earnings per share showing a 19 per cent increase in the half year which ended in November.

Over this last decade a medium-sized family company has been turned into the 11th largest (by market capitalization) public company in the UK, with its volume of sales increasing by two and a half times. Earnings per share in real terms compound have been rising by 12.9 per cent per annum over the last 10 years—one of the highest rates among large British companies. Global recognition followed in 1984, with the "International Retailer of the Year" award to Sir John Sainsbury in Dallas, Texas—the first time such an award had been made.

Centralized control has always been a key to Sainsbury's success, as it has been for other British retail chains like Marks & Spencer, Boots and W. H. Smith. Until it developed a network of distribution depots operating on its behalf around the country (it owns four outright), the geographical limit for Sainsbury shops was a radius of 120 miles from London. Even now, Sainsbury's map of Britain shows "empty quarters"—most of Wales and the West Country, Scotland north of Edinburgh (site of a new SavaCentre) and England north of York.

Historically, Sainsbury's has been oriented to the south-east of England,



but the company is now firmly based on a national scale, and the process is likely to accelerate as refinements are added to the computer system in which Sainsbury's was a pioneer. The next stages of data control will move beyond restocking shop shelves within 24 hours to linking information from the branches through the depots and, ultimately, direct to the manufacturers, speeding up and streamlining the distribution process.

"Computer control has given us a tremendous advantage," says J. H. G. Barnes, board director in charge of retail operations. "We believe our competitors are only now coming up to our level in this area." Barnes has lived through phenomenal changes in the company, particularly its sheer growth in size, since he joined as an accountant with the internal audit department in 1956. At that time, working in East Anglia, one of his tasks was to check the leather money pouches worn by Sainsbury's egg collectors when they toured the little farms collecting half a dozen eggs here, a dozen there, and leaving the money in pots on farmhouse mantelshelves.

Sainsbury's computer experience has also helped give the company an edge in market research; what finance director David Sainsbury calls its "intelligence system" by which it keeps its finger on the pulse of the high-street and international food trading developments. Other countries are studied for innovations in food products, retailing methods and technical developments, while at home a constant feedback of information on competitors' prices and products comes from a small army of staff pensioners and others associated with the company.

Sensitive monitoring of the marketplace enabled Sainsbury's to surmount the recent recession with a healthy increase in profits. They did it by learning

from mistakes in the 1970s recession, when the solution was thought to be retrenching, building modest-sized stores, and concentrating on basics rather than expanding product ranges. This time the company correctly perceived that although consumers would spend less on eating out, they were prepared to spend more on going up-market at home—a trend which is seen to be continuing.

"Convenience foods are different from those of 10 years ago," comments Peter Davis. "It's not the TV dinner now, but a combination of convenience and quality." In many cases, he points out, it has been the retailers who have led the manufacturers into innovation. "Sainsbury's were the first to launch low-fat milk, and we had the devil of a job to get the manufacturers to supply it. Now the milkman has it as a matter of course."

The company has a healthy respect for the increasingly sophisticated food innovations of Marks & Spencer, undoubtedly its closest competitor in terms of quality. Alan Sainsbury and Simon Marks, the second-generation M & S chairman, were close friends and the two companies follow similar policies in their strict, written specifications to suppliers and insistence on laboratory quality controls.

Sainsbury managers are even more apt than their M & S counterparts to get spot checks by the chairman and directors. Each store gets visited an average two and a half times a year by a member of the board: last year Sir John Sainsbury made 100 visits, two-thirds of them unannounced. A tall, distinctive figure in horn-rimmed glasses, he would find it hard to drop in incognito, but his colleagues often do: Peter Davis does his own shopping on a Friday evening or Saturday.

It is a well-founded Sainsbury tradition that the chairman can do the store manager's job better than he can, and

Sainsbury's Homebase at Catford, one of their 23 new DIY and garden centres.

the present chairman is held in just as much awe for his grasp of detail as was his father. "I'm a perfectionist," admits Sir John. "We have to be doing it extremely well for me to be really satisfied. We know we're never doing the job as well as it *can* be done—that we can always do it better."

The life of a top retailer is lived on the shifting edge of change, and the recently announced southward expansion of the Asda supermarket chain, challenging the market dominance of Sainsbury's and Tesco, will ensure that the two food giants will need to stay quick on their feet. Sainsbury's move into DIY with Homebase—a natural for Sunday trading when it comes—and into hypermarkets broadens their base, but the main fight will continue to be for the housewife's grocery list.

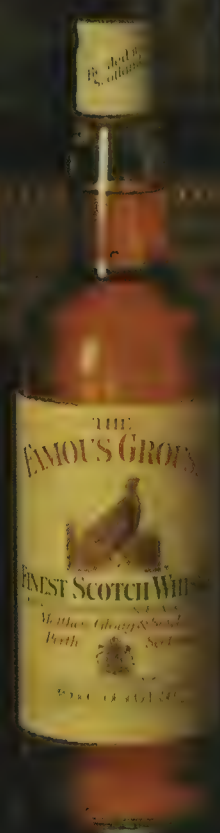
Sainsbury's intend to go on raising the physical standard of their stores, bringing the older ones up to the level of the new. They are planning store openings for up to five years ahead and investing more than any other retailer in Britain in new stores, says Sir John. Warrington, Walsall, Loughborough, Watford, Chadwell Heath and a third store in Brighton are still to open in the current financial year.

But ultimately, one suspects, the battle will be won on the field of product quality and value for money. As Sir John remarked, gesturing towards the table in his office where he tastes his weekly samples: "It's no good having a good store if the product we sell isn't equally outstanding." And Peter Davis has no doubts on that score: "We are, I suppose, one of the top 20 businesses in the UK, but we are the closest to the product." ●

Carol Kennedy is Deputy Editor of *The Director*.



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HOLIDAYS ON THE MOVE

Introduced by Alan Whicker

Much of my life is spent roaming restlessly round airports. I am not complaining, for any point of departure has an undercurrent of subdued excitement, a promise of adventure. Once it must have been just so at railway stations; at docks, certainly.

Today the airport terminal offers travellers those indelible first and last impressions, so its loudspeakers must not offer inarticulate announcements; that way lies panic. It does not need machines designed to tear labels off luggage—or hopeless, endless corridors out of Kafka. An immutable law of travel states that whenever you have indulged in duty-free purchases and selfish cabin-baggage the aircraft docks at the farthest-flung bay.

London Airport now has distant vistas, but quite often most of its 1½ miles of moving walkways are actually working, so they take the strain. Houston International also has a People Mover—an unmanned train controlled, alarmingly, by a Logic Unit. Night and day these bright but unattended toys glide silently upon their appointed rounds. Similar underground trains at Dallas/Fort Worth airport once became obstinately illogical, stopping at stations but refusing to open their doors. Imprisoned travellers found themselves going round and round while up above their unfeeling aircraft flew away...

An airport does *not* need bullet-holes. Landing at Haiti to interview the late unlamented Papa Doc, I was confronted by a St Valentine's massacre of machine-gun bullet-holes seared across a wall, which had proved terminal for some Haitians trying to escape to Miami.

Since no one dared question the right of Tontons Macoute to do anything to anyone, the airport manager had neither the authority nor the courage to plaster over the scars, so that first sight of Port-au-Prince had absolutely no visitor-appeal. Approach them how you will, bullet-holes just do not say Welcome.

Airports should be sited sensibly. Leeds/Bradford stands on a hilltop. It grew out of a flying club, and could revert. Likewise Norfolk Island, floating through southern seas between Australia and New Zealand, awaits the kiss of progress. When I first stepped on to its short grass strip the only long-range aircraft it could handle were those DC4s which flew with Spitfires and Messerschmitts when pilots wore

it is as well to get into a routine.

You reach Mount Cook Airport from Christchurch, crossing New Zealand's superb South Island. The Avro 747 flies up alpine valleys, turning left and right where suitable but juddering and bucking all the way. Passengers sit white and braced and nonchalant.

As we lurched through the mountains I was invited up-front to the jump seat, a piece of impermanent canvas like a trampoline strung between Captain and First Officer. I clung on, taking an intelligent interest while they pointed out features like Mount Cook, 12,000 feet and snow-covered, just up there... er, down there.

As peaks leapt up before the wind-screen and dropped away, the airliner absorbed a ferocious buffeting—and it was a perfect sunlit day, seemingly calm and crystal-sharp to infinity. It seemed that when winds fresh from the South Pole hit their first mountain range, they cut up exceedingly rough.

Finally we flew round a mountain towards a small strip and a few sheds by a lake. Touching down among the ski-planes, everyone breathed again. I assumed the wounded aircraft would be removed from service and stripped down to the last tortured nut and bolt.

"Nice steady flight," said the Captain. "It can get quite bumpy..."

I let it go. Doubtless he came from that band of flying farmhands, the top-soil-dressing pilots of New Zealand who have little use for airports. Their aircraft are so overloaded with fertilizer they must take off from fields that run downhill and fly so low they find branches and hats in their undercarriage. Pilots develop a casual attitude to being heavier than air.

At the very end of the New Hebridean chain the green speck of Aneityum is not so much an airport, more a South Pacific sand dune. The landing strip is island-long but it does boast a scheduled service, so be serious—just see the timetable. Every other Thursday an Islander of Air Melanesia appeared; miss it and it is the beach for another fortnight.

I was going to film a splendid chap called Artie Kraft, would you believe, who for 20 years had been the only white man among thousands of Melanesians. He met every plane because, after all, his Stone Age neighbours did not receive many airborne visitors. Artie was airport manager, ground-staff and, most important, air traffic controller: he waved. Should the ➤➤



On safari in Africa by Richard Cox
Across America by train by Alex Hamilton
Cruising in the Far East by Edward Mace
Exploring the Canal du Midi by James Bishop
Caribbean island hopping by Michael Watkins
Ghats and gods of India by David Tennant
Sailing off Yugoslavia by David Wickers
Travel facts by David Tennant

goggles. The Departure Lounge was a banyan tree.

Nauru, also in the Pacific but just south of the Equator, is 2,500 miles from anywhere and even tinier: 3 miles by 2. The runway almost overlaps the island, which is composed entirely of bird droppings. The 3,500 Nauruans have their own airline, of course, for the Republic is very rich indeed—where there's birdmuck there's money. They handle airliners landing upon their diminishing coral dot by calling out the police and blocking the roads.

Motorists stand around admiringly waiting for life to resume while Air Nauru taxis to the terminal. There are very few passengers—and no doubt an airport is much tidier without them.

I liked Tortola, too. The little airport on Beef Island in the British Virgins has scheduled services and a public address system. "Would passengers departing by LIAT to Antigua proceed to Gate Number One" loudspeakers specified, passing lightly over the fact that there was only one gate. While you are waiting for the Big Time to arrive

pilot catch his drift he might fly around once more, or buzz off.

For all that, Aneityum was right there on the international air lanes; you could book a flight all the way at your bemused neighbourhood travel agent. It had its own easy-going style—you loaded and unloaded your own luggage, unless a watching Melanesian would help. He, more than likely, would be a Cargo Cultist and might take you for John Frum, the white God his Cult has been expecting to arrive out of the western sky, bearing gifts. You meet porters like that all over the world.

Of course, Aneityum airport also has People Movers. It calls them feet.

ON SAFARI IN AFRICA

by Richard Cox

To have known a country for 25 years may not always improve one's objectivity, but it does provide a sense of perspective. I first went to Kenya in 1960 and my vivid memories include muddy bathwater, horrendous dirt roads—the 304 miles from Nairobi to Mombasa used to be called the “slipway to the sea”—great friendliness and unparalleled natural beauty, both of landscape and wildlife.

The scenery has not changed significantly. Although rhino are close to extinction, no visitor is going to find a dearth of wildlife and there are now 39 national parks and reserves against a handful at Independence. Despite petty crime of the bag-snatching type, the friendliness of the people remains amazing.

What has changed is the best way of seeing this magnificent country. Hotels, game lodges and roads have improved almost out of recognition, and now they are crowded with package tourists travelling in minibuses. In consequence, the more adventurous kind of safari, involving camping out and to some extent roughing it—though not missing one's hot shower and relaxing with a gin and tonic in the evening—is enjoying a revival.

The top of the market is the traditional luxury private safari, the kind Hemingway wrote about, with your own guides and trackers, transport and camp staff. The renowned firm of Ker & Downey will still show you Kenya as they showed it to Prince Charles, and although hunting remains banned bird shooting has just started again. But the costs are high and even they use the better lodges occasionally.

An excellent way to get the feel of the wild without breaking the bank is to take advantage of various private ranches and game sanctuaries, and of specialist firms which combine dis-



Top, an elephant against the backdrop of Mount Kilimanjaro at Amboseli National Park. Above, Samburu woman.

count airline fares with individually tailored schedules.

The place I and my late-teenage children have enjoyed most is Lewa Downs, a 40,000 acre ranch in spectacular open country 150 miles north of Nairobi, with Mount Kenya's glaciers glinting in the background. Here Mr and Mrs David Craig have established a comfortable tented camp by a stream. From it you can drive, ride or walk with an armed scout to watch most of Kenya's plains game, including the rare Greater Kudu. Elephant and the big cats also roam the area, and the Craigs have loaned 5,000 acres for Kenya's first rhino sanctuary. The food is excellent and the atmosphere like a country-house party miraculously translated to the bush.

Lewa Downs is also the base for

camel safaris run separately by former game warden Julian McKeand. He takes up to 12 people on a six-day trek in the nearby Samburu country, aided by 26 camp staff including expert trackers. You cover about 60 miles in the mornings, mainly on foot, reaching each new camp-site by lunchtime. We never saw another tourist. We did encounter lion, elephant, crocodile and many antelope, as well as witnessing the lifestyle of the Samburu people. The organization was impeccable.

Nearer Mount Kenya is the Prettejohns' Sangare ranch, which has a one-family-sized private lodge by a lake which attracts game. From Sangare the Prettejohns organize horse safaris up through the Aberdare forests to the 10,000-foot-high moorland above. As pack animals they intriguingly use zebroids—a cross between a horse and a zebra—which the Prettejohns breed themselves. This high-altitude safari is uniquely rewarding for those who seek to see birdlife and vegetation as well as animals.

A hundred miles due west of Nairobi the Masai Mara Game Reserve is where the great annual migration of millions of zebra and wildebeest from the Serengeti in Tanzania ends. The profusion of wildlife has made it a tourist Mecca, in fact there is danger that it will become overwhelmed like Amboseli. Two places to escape the crowd are Kichwa Tembo, which I rate as one of the best semi-permanent camps in Kenya, and the less sophisticated Cottar's Camp, to the east of the area. As both are outside the reserve, you can take night drives or escorted game walks which are impossible

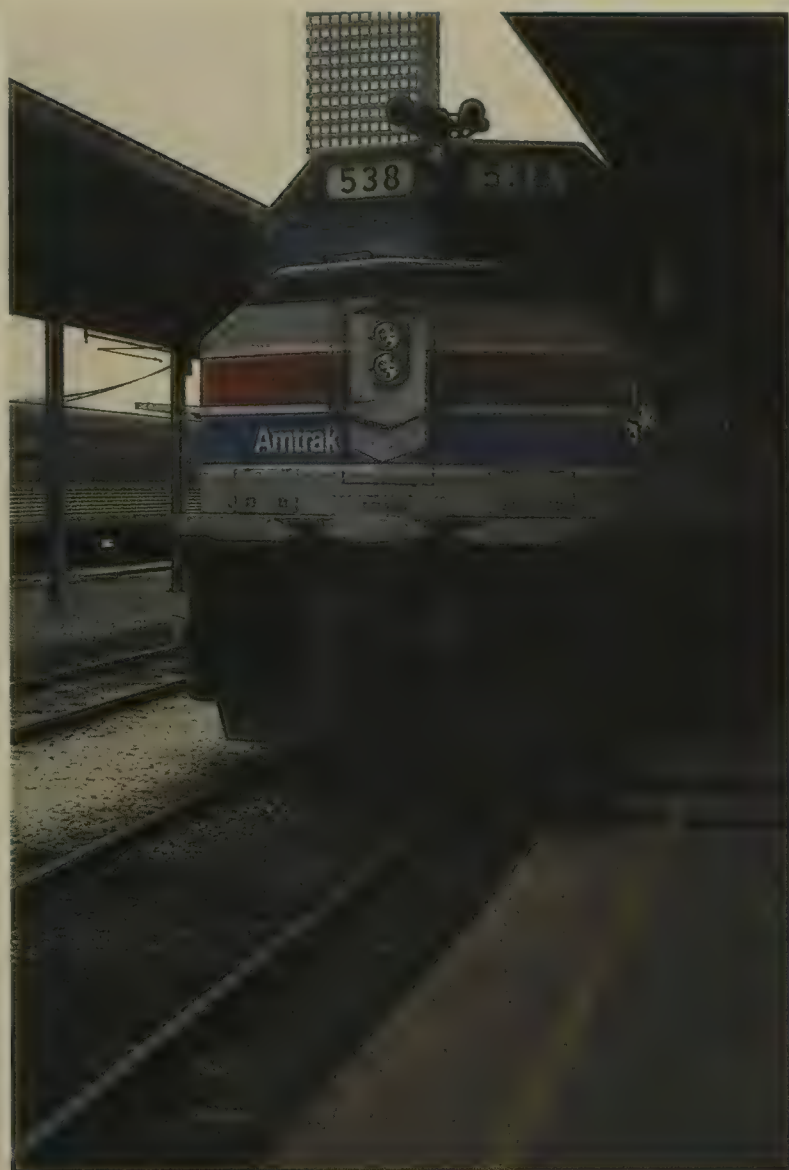
inside a park. Additionally Cottar's has an excellent lookout house, sleeping seven, where you can watch animals at night by an illuminated water-hole.

The Mara now also boasts riding safaris, a six-day African equivalent of pony trekking, on horses that are trained to be at ease among game. Safaris Unlimited, the organizers, can also arrange special rides of up to 14 days. As with the camel safari, it is a magnificent way of seeing the country, but you need to be tolerably fit.

After a safari it is no bad idea to devote the last few days to Kenya's white coral beaches. On the way you could break the journey by spending the night at the Salt Lick Lodge near Voi, set in a 28,000 acre private sanctuary, where the game viewing is as good as anywhere in Kenya. Salt Lick is part of the Hilton chain.

Hotels have mushroomed at the coast. Three places with individual character are the Che Chale beach club north of Malindi, on its own beach; the elegant and delightful Arab-style Indian Ocean Lodge at Malindi's Casuarina Point, which is linked to a 1½ million acre game ranch two hours' drive inland on the Galana River; and Nomads, at Diani beach on the south coast (that is, south of Mombasa) which, like Che Chale, is effectively an up-market safari camp with its own seafood restaurant. For a straightforward, meticulously run hotel you cannot do better than the Serena Beach near Mombasa itself.

Finally, transport. Car hire is expensive. Charter-flying is fast and direct. Four people flying from Lewa



Downs to the Mara would cut out a 10 hour drive and spend no more on the fare. All the places I have mentioned have their own airstrips or nearby airfields and can provide vehicles for when you arrive. I also advise spending the first night in Nairobi, to rest and get acclimatized, for which there is nowhere better than the famous Norfolk Hotel, now upgraded to five-star status.

ACROSS AMERICA BY TRAIN

by Alex Hamilton

There is a scene in Hitchcock's *North By Northwest* which I think is unintentionally the best commercial ever made for American railways. It is the brief footage when Cary Grant was lured by a beautiful agent, Eva Marie Saint, into her cabin and, as the door was closing on the camera, he addressed the audience directly. "Beats flying any time," he said.

Only 6 per cent of British visitors to

the USA share this view, however, and it is certainly true that the Empire Builder—the train which links Seattle on the north-west coast with Chicago in the east—stops at many very small places indeed. It does not stop long though, and if you were to get off for a minute to look around, you could well find yourself stranded. As the conductor remarked, "The Empire Builder just never comes back to pick up stray chickens."

The Empire Builder is a double-decker, which puts the horizon back a few miles. This is pleasant and relaxing, though it still does not bring anything more into view across Montana and North Dakota. Inside, it is a miracle of compression. I slept in a "roomette", one of several, with a dividing corridor, on the upper storey. About 8 feet long and 4 feet wide, it nevertheless contained facing seats which fold out to become a bed, a bunk above to be lowered if wanted, a fold-out table with a chess board pattern on which people play draughts using dimes against quarters and a "closet" deep enough to store three garments on hangers and two shoulder bags. There is also a rack for only medium-sized luggage.



Left, one of Amtrak's double-decker trains whose top-deck dome cars, top, afford good views of Montana's farming country, above, en route from Seattle.

However, if you scout the curious topography of these coaches, with their winding stairs, clearings for water distillers and coffee machines, or follow laughter to a snug den where a basketball team may be smoking and drinking, you will become aware of larger and more opulent boudoirs.

The Empire Builder's gait is soporific but on reaching Chicago you change to a single-decker train to continue your journey eastwards (there are tunnels) and the driver behaves as if he were a former pilot. At first the Empire Builder's pace seems to be slow because it is all uphill out of Seattle and into Montana, but even after the intercom has apprised you of the exact moment you pass the highest point in the Rockies, there is no noticeable

acceleration. You wonder if the train has popped a gasket.

On Amtrak there is always a railway buff on hand. In my case it was a businessman who had travelled every mile of the entire system, and he told me that the rolling stock belongs to Amtrak, but the rails belong to the freight lines, who rent them out. The freight wagons are too heavy for banked curves.

In his experienced view Amtrak has improved enormously. He thought the dining-car attendants, for instance, were now almost civil. I thought they were actually civil, if terse, and the food at an average of \$12 a meal was reasonably varied, from fish to beef.

The trains are usually full and, apart from rail personnel, everybody is loquacious. My memory of the journey is of five days of garrulous exchange. I enjoy this kind of thing—America is the greatest country on earth for casual encounters.

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To recharge your batteries, you can retreat to your roomette. But this is not foolproof. On the way groups of schoolchildren came on board to experience the train for half an hour, walking its length in Indian file, wearing Amtrak head-dresses. Several hundred small individuals in turn poked their heads in at me, smiled, winked or grimaced, and pushed off to find another amusing curiosity.

CRUISING IN THE FAR EAST

by Edward Mace

The ships of the Royal Viking Line are sleek and beautiful. They sail under the Norwegian flag but are based in California and groomed to American taste: to a lifestyle that is culturally flimsy; securely hygienic; cling-film wrapped. The cabins are cool—too cool for some—and in exquisite taste.

In the restaurant the young blond waiters are charming as well as deft. The sailors, who are Norwegians, look ready to cope with anything. The officers have style and know how to charm the ladies. These ships have what some rich Americans hanker after—that is, class, with a short “a” to rhyme with lass, and it is important to get this straight at the beginning in order to appreciate the atmosphere on board for what it is worth. In the pent-houses some passengers pay \$500 a day.

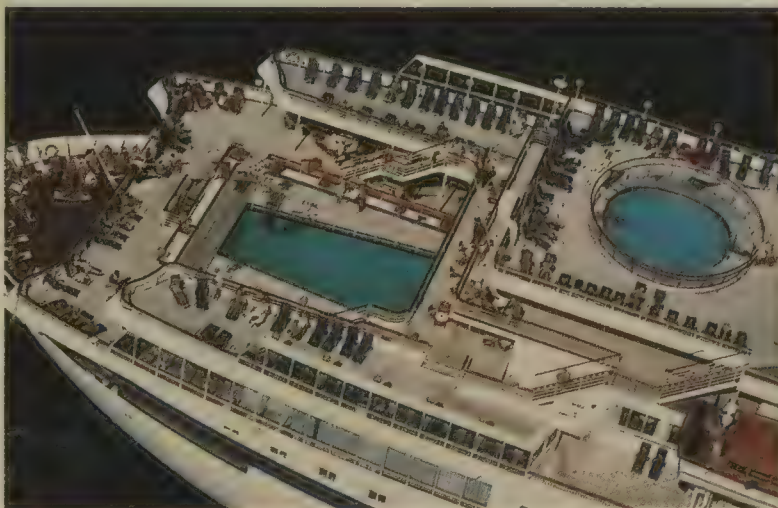
I was on the *Royal Viking Star*, cruising the Java and South China seas, making little forays, never much more than tentative, into Indonesia and the Philippines.

After dinner on the nights preceding landfalls lecturers told us what they thought we would want to know about the places we were due to see. An ornithologist would describe the regional bird life, not too technically, and an art historian would outline the architectural and religious significance of the temples ahead of us. An Australian politician tried to unravel the mysteries of Far East politics, hard to do in 30 minutes.

Occasionally these lectures clashed with those delivered by the cruise director, whose dire warnings about the dangers of going ashore at all showed that he understood the passengers' priorities better than the professors and the politician. “Be careful in Jakarta,” he would say, “a dirty, dangerous city with a bad reputation, untrustworthy taxi drivers and a vile climate. *Never go anywhere alone.*” It was troublesome to grasp such realities when your digestive tracts were trying to deal with caviar; cold melon and strawberry soup; chicken stuffed with apples and almonds, as much Madeira sauce and



The *Royal Viking Star* cruising in Indonesian waters and, left, her sun deck.



as many green beans as you could manage; turbot wrapped in salmon (or possibly the other way round); a choice of 200 cheeses and blackcurrant and cointreau sorbet.

The lecturer who drew the largest audiences was an investment expert, one Mack Watkins, Director (Western Regional) Mutual Fund Sales, from the firm of Kidder, Peabody and Co. Tonight: “Your Battle for Stock Market Profits”.

Deck space was immense and the chairs wonderfully comfortable. No wonder so many passengers were reluctant to go ashore. It meant leaving long white tables loaded with delicious food and drinks for a cuisine doubtful at best. Passengers preferred to settle down to long, drowsy days in blissful sunshine, lulled by the lullaby of the softly gurgling turquoise sea. I loved the landfalls and longed for them, exhilarated by the contact, even if it was superficial, with the infinite and unknown. Some of the excursions were

spellbinding experiences and they were spaced dramatically between the placid days at sea, like the planned pauses in plainsong.

This part of the world, from the place names to the flowers and the shape of the tree trunks, has the flourish and surprise of sorcery. And the same vulgarity. Bali would be a natural choice as a stage set for a big, crude American musical: everything on the island seems artificially amplified. Wherever the ship docked, especially in the harsh white light of tropical mornings, the land appeared to be painted amateurishly on cardboard. Every day presented a new bag of tricks. For instance, a rainbow like a parrot's feathers dropped across the horizon as we left Manila, followed, a split second later, by a sunset of molten gold and black night. Ujung Pandang, the capital of south Sulawesi, could be a re-run of Somerset Maugham's *Orient*; all two-storey buildings and frangipani trees and a harbour of jostling sailing

ships manned by brown, tough little fishermen.

The East teems with people, scaring the life out of you at what the future holds. There are children everywhere, all enchanting: tumbling and shouting, chasing the immense butterflies, clustered round the great waterfall of Baturung, or lying curled up under rose-coloured stars, crawling out of the rusty oil drums where they have spent the night.

On board the passengers are equally omnipresent. Most, though not all, lack the elegance and grace of the Orientals on shore but they all did their best.

EXPLORING THE CANAL DU MIDI

by James Bishop

The Canal du Midi is one of the minor glories of France, and now that it has been virtually abandoned by commercial traffic its tranquillity and enchantment have become almost exclusively the preserve of the friendly people of Languedoc-Roussillon who live in the villages and small towns along its banks, and of visitors who have the patience to explore at walking pace, which is the maximum speed boats may travel on this peaceful waterway. The canal runs for some 125 miles from Toulouse to the Mediterranean at Sète, and for most of its length it has more of the characteristics of a

HOLIDAYS ON THE MOVE



river than a canal.

There is no need for narrow boats. Most of the craft you hire are at least 12 feet in the beam and some of them can comfortably accommodate eight or 10 people, including at least one double berth. The canal is generally wide enough for these and more substantial boats to pass in comfort, the banks are soft, often reeded and generally lined with plane trees to provide shelter from the sun, and the water follows a course that twists and turns along the contours of the vine-growing land as erratically as the flight of the kingfishers that flash ahead and sometimes obligingly wait on the water's edge fish in beak, for your boat to catch up. Only the old narrow bridges and the locks remind you that this is a canal and not a river.

The canal's original name, the Canal des Deux-Mers, aptly described its ambition, which was to join the Mediterranean to the Atlantic and this was a sea voyage of some 1,800 miles. It was an idea the Romans toyed with but which was not fulfilled until Louis XIV's reign, when Pierre-Paul Riquet, Baron de Bonrepos, was given authority to begin its construction, using the water from the rivers of the Montagne Noire, which flow both eastwards to the Mediterranean and westwards to the Atlantic. Riquet did not live to see the completion of his canal, dying a few months before its inauguration in 1681, but his survival for more than 300 years is a testament to his engineering genius; and as any other man have so fair a memorial?

In a couple of weeks it is possible to cruise the length of the canal at leisure, taking time to explore some of the towns and villages along the route and

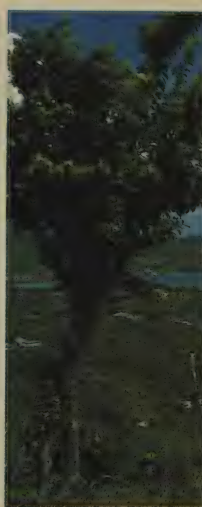


A peaceful stretch of the Canal du Midi, top, and a lock, above, in the dramatic staircase of seven at Fontserannes.

to bicycle to the Mediterranean for a day on the beach. You should also have time to tie up for lunch. Most of the villages within reach of the canal will have a *charcuterie* where you will find perhaps some *pâté de campagne* and many local cheeses, all of which go well with the wines of the Hérault (the red Saint Saturnin is agreeably light), and in the evening you will not have far to go to find not one of the great restaurants of France, perhaps, but certainly one that will provide a good and cheerful meal, with one or more of the local fish prominent on the menu. This being the province of Languedoc (the "tongue of ox", so called because the word for "yes" was *oc*, not *oui*), the local *pâtis*—a mixture of French, Provençal and Catalan—may not always be easily understood, but Languedociens are patient and used to meeting strangers, and very ready to talk about their food.

If you have only a week you will have to be selective about where to

linger and, more important, where to start. Travelling in September we chose the Mediterranean end, for which Blakes arrange a flight package to Montpellier, whence it is a short journey by road to Marsillan, an attractive little town a few miles from Sète where the British company, Blue Line, operates a fleet of boats. If you start at the other end of the canal and have only a week you may not make it to the Mediterranean, and you will not have the opportunity of beginning the voyage with a gentle cruise past the oyster beds of the Etang de Thau, which is broad enough for you to test the controls of your boat without dire consequences if you go round in circles. On entering the canal it is an easy run to the first lock, which holds no unexpected terrors—ideal for a first attempt at lock drill. It is operated by a



helpful and sympathetic *clusier*, who keeps a cage full of black turkeys and fat pheasants (at least it was full when we were there a few months before Christmas).

The third lock on the way up, at Agde, is a very different affair, large and round, with exits both to the canal and to the river Hérault. Agde, a fishing port founded by the Greeks from Marseilles, is one of the oldest towns in France, distinguished by its forbidding fortified cathedral which is built of black basaltic lava from the extinct volcano of Mont St Loup, at whose foot the town stands.

Béziers, which is about 15 miles west of Agde as the canal runs, is a sizeable town with a tragic history, for it was here in 1209 that the entire population of some 30,000 people were massacred following the proclamation of a crusade against the Cathars, or Albigensians as they were known in Languedoc. The population of Béziers took refuge in the churches when the town was attacked, and it is said that the soldiers, asking how to tell true Catholics from heretics, were ordered to kill them all by the Papal Legate, who explained that God would recognize his own. The Gothic cathedral, which replaced the one that was burnt down by Simon de Montfort during this attack, dominates the southern end of the town.

For those on the canal Béziers is also memorable for the dramatic staircase



of seven locks at Fontserannes. Its passage is less alarming than it first appears when the sluice is opened and water cascades in like a miniature Niagara, though it can be wet and bumpy if the crew are less than alert at their ropes, as was drawn to our attention by the harassed skipper of an accompanying boat who stuck her head out of the wheelhouse to shout at her crew, whose nationality we had not hitherto known: "That was a real cock-up."

Tranquillity returns after Fontserannes, for here you enter Le Grand Bief, the longest lock-free stretch of the canal, running for 34 miles over one of the world's first navigable aqueducts. It is on this stretch, at the oldest canal tunnel, that you must get out the bicycles and pedal up to l'Ospidum d'Enserune, the archaeological site on a hilltop overlooking the plain that runs from the Cévennes to the sea. First excavated in 1915, the site has been found to have been occupied

from the sixth century BC to the first century AD by people from the Iberian peninsula. Outside the wall is a burial ground in which more than 500 tombs have been discovered. The finds from the site are well displayed in the museum on the hill, from whose summit you can see to the Pyrenees and look across the path Hannibal took with his elephants.

The disadvantage of starting at Marsillan if time is limited is that, unless you travel hard, you will not get

to Carcassonne, with its great medieval fortress or, to be more precise, its greatly restored medieval fortress. Those who start at this end of the canal will do so, if they use the admirable Blakes-Blue Line service, at Castelnau, which will give them the opportunity of sampling its famed *casoulet*. It is at Castelnau, too, that the canal starts its gentle descent, which means you enter the locks the easier way, when they are flat. But whether you go up or down, or up and down, the Canal du Midi will not be hurried. If you are travelling to arrive, this is not the way to go.

CARIBBEAN ISLAND HOPPING

by Michael Watkins

Travel it is said, broadens the mind. Perhaps. In my opinion, it also broadens the buttocks—there is so much sitting involved in travel today. Travel has become a sedentary affair—a contradiction in terms. So why not reduce the fatty tissue by moving around by air or sea, and do a little therapeutic Caribbean island-hopping. You will find it frustrating, exhausting and hugely rewarding; and if you think I'm going to spoil your fun by telling you how it is done, you will be



English Harbour, Antigua, far left, St George's, Grenada, above, and in the cruise-plagued American islands of Puerto Rico and St Thomas.

conditioning and dinner jackets in Barbados, Antigua, St Lucia and in the cruise-plagued American islands of Puerto Rico and St Thomas.

Once I asked a Martiniquais barman how to make *petit punch*, a work of art. "*Mélange soigneusement et avec amour*," he replied. Why, of course. And if anyone asks me what is so special about the Caribbean, this is what I tell them—it has all been mixed with love and care. It is a question of blood, mixed blood, miscegenation; for "out of many, one people," the words of Jamaica's motto. So in Martinique's capital of Fort de France and Guadeloupe's Point-à-Pitre the Creole language is roundly French. In Christiansted on St Croix the influence is Danish. While in Dominica—an island given to mystery and melancholy—the influence is more threatening, making me feel a trespasser. I have felt the same in Haiti, a sensation that Papa Doc is dead, yet won't lie down, that the Ton-ton Macoute still monitor my movements from behind dark glasses, that drum beats still mark a voodoo *rondele*.

In Nevis I stay with friends, the Milnes Gaskells, at their superb Montpelier Plantation Inn, where the air-conditioning works in much the same way it does in my Suffolk home: you simply open the window. Fanny Nisbet married her sailor hero Horatio at Montpelier in 1787 and here I listen to serene transitoriness silence, going to Fig Tree Church each Sunday. In Monserrat I stay with other friends, the Osbornes, at the Vue Pointe Hotel, eating the national dish of "goat-water", a kind of curry, watching "bam-chick-la-chiga foot maya", the national dance, and dodging the mosquitoes, the national bird. In Anguilla I do nothing because it's flat and there's nothing to do and because Anguillans are the nicest people this side of Eden.

St George's harbour in Grenada is a sight for the blessed; but even here I once heard the midnight shots of

disappointed. One learns by mistakes, the hard way. By necessity you will rely on LIAT, Leeward Islands Air Transport (affectionately and of course with no just cause known as Luggage in Another Town); and you will rely on sea-plane, mailboat, schooner—or cruise ship for the really lazy.

Once when visiting Daphne Henderson's paradise, White Bay Sandcastle on Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands, I had to swim the last 200 yards because Daphne could not fit the supplies and me into her dinghy. She takes eight guests in Crusoe-like simplicity, mixes a punch concocted of rum and nitro-glycerine and cooks like Escoffier. On another occasion, because I missed the ferry, I swam from St Vincent to Young Island; and when I hauled myself on to the hotel jetty, a thoughtful management welcomed me with smiles and hibiscus.

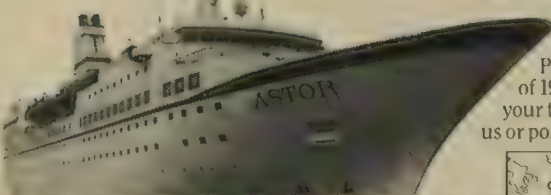
You could, if you were of that turn of mind, hop from one flesh-pot to the next. There are plenty of luxury, air-

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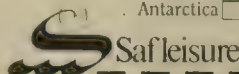


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revolution. Given the chance I'd sail these Grenadines, muddling my way through Carriacou, Petit St Vincent, Union, Palm, Canouan, skipping Mustique (too rich for my blood), to Bequia.

I'd think about the slave culture and the sins of our fathers and how the wounds they inflicted went deep. The West Indians have no good cause to like us—yet sometimes I believe they do. The gift of friendship is with them. When all is said and done, they are the innocents.

GHATS AND GODS OF INDIA

by David Tennant

It was just after dawn when I arrived at the river, my guide driver having cursed and cajoled his way through the maze of packed streets, then strangely quiet, to within 200 yards of the ghats, the 3 mile long series of huge stone steps lining the bank. The sun, a massive bronze ball, was emerging from the

A hive of activity on the ghats going down to the holy River Ganges in Varanasi, centre of India's Hindu faith.

morning mist, itself enriched by smoke from thousands of open fires cooking the first meal of the day. The air was quite cool (it was late February) but in less than two hours it would be hot and humid.

The place was Varanasi—formerly Benares—centre of the Hindu faith, the oldest city in India and possibly in the world. With its shrines and temples, overcrowded dwellings and decaying palaces, vast sprawling university and chaotic traffic, Varanasi, home to more than 600,000, attracts thousands of pilgrims all year round to bathe in the murky but spiritually purifying waters of the Ganges, the "all holy Ganga".

I made my way carefully among the swarms of humanity on the ghats—Brahmin priests radiating authority, cadaver-like yogis, unkempt *sadhus* (holy men) chanting their monotone incantations, cripples that defy description, beggars with their bowls held up accusingly for alms—and ordinary pilgrims, a cross-section of the subcontinent's lifestream. And

» p44

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You don't have to hope for the best.

among them children played, yelled and splashed water.

We boarded a rowing boat at the Dasaswamedh ghat and proceeded upstream past the Manikarnika ghat, the main cremation centre with its smoking pyres and lines of corpses wrapped in silk or linen, awaiting their turn for the torch that would carry their soul into the next existence.

Downstream hordes of women in colourful saris scrubbed and beat the family laundry on stones. Priests sat immobile under sunshades blessing the faithful for a fee, mangy dogs ran everywhere, and behind, like some weird three-dimensional theatrical backdrop, the irregular mass of buildings reflected the brightening sun.

In the city itself, where I stayed in the pleasant, gardened Ashok Varanasi Hotel, I visited the Viswanatha, the Golden Temple over whose threshold only Hindus may step. But nearby houses do a profitable business charging visitors to view part of its interior from their flat roofs. The surrounding streets, narrow and cluttered, are filled with gold and silver workshops as well as craftsmen of varying skills making models of gods as souvenirs. I also visited a silk warehouse with its exquisite contents—"the cheapest in India", I was assured a score of times—and a carpet "palace" which had once been a princely residence.

Varanasi lies in the flat, hot plains of Uttar Pradesh, about 500 miles south-east of Delhi, and some 75 minutes from it by jet or around 12 hours by express train. A little over half an hour away by air, south-west of Varanasi, is Khajuraho, just over the state border in Madhya Pradesh. In a land teeming with temples and shrines the 22 there—all that remain of the 85 built by the Chandella kings in the 10th and 11th centuries—are outstanding.

Dedicated to various deities, the temples are renowned for the carvings which decorate most of them. Here a confusion of gods and goddesses, humans of every type and social caste and in particular voluptuous females, serpents and lion-like beasts, all reflect an uninhibited way of life. Exotic, and most definitely erotic—indeed so explicit that many Western visitors are profoundly shocked by what they see—they represent an astonishingly advanced artistic achievement, not least because they were carved with primitive tools in about 100 years by a society that was contemporary with the last Saxon kings of England. If you want to study the sculptures in detail then you should take advantage of the bright morning sun, but for me the temples as a unit (they are scattered over a considerable area) are at their most beautiful near sunset when their ornate towers, pinnacles, cupolas, porticos and abundant statuary are set against a sky that changes from bright gold to bronze, then to blood red,



hovers pale pink before rapidly turning deepest indigo.

Khajuraho itself is a rather down-at-heel village now and it is hard to realize that for several hundred years it was the centre of a rich and powerful kingdom. The countryside is flat scrubland so that from a distance the higher temples look like mountain peaks, which indeed was the intention. There are several hotels here, none too large, and guest houses. I stayed in the Jass Oberoi, non-airconditioned but with highly effective fans and a staff who almost literally danced for the guests.

Both Varanasi and Khajuraho are included in a number of tours in northern India or can easily be attached to a circuit such as Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Udaipur.

SAILING OFF YUGOSLAVIA

by David Wickers

"Your boat is called *Istra*, after the peninsula, and it's a very lucky boat," declared Sinisa, manager of the fleet of rented yachts at the marina in Veruda. We had come to this most northerly hump of Yugoslavia, close to the Italian border, for a week's yacht cruising along the Adriatic, one of the stretches of sea most recently discovered by flotilla sailors.

This "sailing in company" concept has revolutionized what was once a mere daydream for all but the rich. With up to a dozen yachts sailing together under the watchful but un-

Porec, with its sixth-century basilica, is an attractive port of call during a sailing holiday in Yugoslavia.

obtrusive eye of an experienced skipper and hostess on a "lead" boat—in our case Barry Neilson, a stalwart New Zealander, and his English girlfriend—flotilla-sailing is ideal for those with insufficient funds either to own or charter a crewed yacht, yet lacking the necessary experience to go "bareboat", the nautical term for self-crew yacht hire.

The Istrian peninsula is a port-hopper's paradise, with somewhere delightful to tie up every night and numerous daytime distractions by way of islands, inlets, bays and the occasional beach (pebble or coarse sand and pebble, mainly) where a peckish crew can drop anchor, rig up a sun awning on the deck, take a dip and enjoy an *al fresco* lunch of goat's cheese, tomatoes, smoked ham, sausage and other locally produced treats.

Veruda makes an ideal starting and finishing point for the cruise. It is a modern marina, equipped with good lavatory and hot-shower facilities, two restaurants and a modest supermarket for basic ship's provisioning. It also enjoys the advantage of being only a 20 minute drive away from Pula airport which has direct flights from several UK airports.

Our mornings began later than planned with a wiggle, twist and a few bone creaks as we rose from our rather slender berths, followed by a tentative head up through the hatch to sniff the breeze. A cup of something preceded Barry's briefing on the day's itinerary. There are not, however, any rigid "follow my leader" rules, as individual

boats are more or less free to make their own way to the late afternoon rendezvous, usually no more than a three- to four-hour sail away. Each boat has a VHF radio, a "sailie-talkie" enabling crews to summon assistance in the event of a nautical hitch or just "roger and out" their well-being at intervals.

The first day began with barely enough breeze to ruffle the surface of the Adriatic let alone billow the sails. Barry reckoned we would simply have to chug along—mainsail up and engine on, nice and slowly. This was warmly greeted by the first-timers in the group. We headed north past Brioni island where the demands of red tape and conservation required us to steer well clear of what used to be Tito's summer home, much visited by world leaders.

Our first and last nights were spent in Rovinj, an architectural gem of a town dramatically poised on a rocky promontory. The silhouette of its 18th-century cathedral and the pencil-fine lines of its 195 foot campanile topped by a statue of St Euphemia were distinguishable from several nautical miles away. The town has a strong Venetian stamp with several classical buildings, narrow streets, cobbled alleys, remains of the medieval walls and gates, green-shuttered windows, potted geraniums, squadrons of pigeons and an incredible rash of TV aerials. We dropped our stern kedge-anchor, tied up bows-on to the quay and explored the town, sampled its pavement cafés, shopped in the open market and consumed an excellent meal of sea bass, chips, salad and too much wine for £4 a head.

The pine-covered serrated limestone shores of the Istrian peninsula have been popular with Yugoslav and international tourists for a long time. Away from the resorts there are few hotels to spoil the scenery and the camping sites are mainly hidden in the woods. The coast has one of the highest ratios of naturist holidaymakers in Europe. Among the places we visited during the week was Porec, with its Romanesque house and sixth-century basilica. Today it is one of the leading package-tour destinations. We also explored the 5-mile-long Limski fjord with its prolific oyster and mussel beds, now a National Park. We sailed about 100 miles in the week, a totally relaxing experience.

Sailing holidays can become addictive. Headland follows headland, and bay succeeds bay—each so different from all the rest. The variety is not the least of the appeal of such a holiday. When the sailing comes to an end and you look at the map to measure all the wonderfully enjoyable hours against distance, you realize that you have barely touched the surface of Yugoslavia. But that really is of no importance—it is the sheer pleasure that leaves the lasting memory.

TRAVEL FACTS

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For the independent traveller: *Getting there.* British Airways fly five times weekly non-stop from Heathrow to Nairobi on Boeing 747s. Return fares: Early Saver (book one month ahead) £360, £447 or £517 according to departure date, minimum stay 14 days; Super Club, £1,060; 1st class, £1,828—no restrictions in either. *Tours.* Safaris Unlimited riding safari costs Kenya Shillings 5,075 (about £282), including flight from Nairobi to Mara. Book direct with them at Box 20138, Nairobi, Kenya (tel from UK 010 254 332 132; telex 22380). Riding safaris in the Aberdares direct from M. Prettejohn, Sangare Ranch, Box 24, Mweiga, Kenya. Ker & Downey's camping safaris cost between US\$570 (about £460) per day for each of two, to US\$275 (about £222) for each of eight travelling together. Information direct from Box 41822, Nairobi, Kenya (tel from UK 010 254 556 466; telex Kulia 22959). *Hotels.* Salt Lick Lodge bookable through any Hilton or agency, Serena Beach through any good agency.

Inclusive holidays: 17-day tour to Norfolk Hotel, Lewa Downs, Governor's Camp in the Mara and Che Chale, flying throughout, £2,147 a person with two or more. Flamingo Tours of East Africa, 12 New Burlington Street, W1X 1SF (01-439 7722). Will also book camel safari.

12-day luxury safari in tents, including Kichwa Tembo and Lewa Downs, and road transport, £1,119 to £1,168 from London. Three days at coast, £216; seven days, £300 to £331. Abercrombie & Kent, 42 Sloane Street, SW1X 9LU (01-235 9761). Will also book Indian Ocean Lodge, Che Chale and Sangare Lodge.

Wide range of both lodge and tented safaris arranged by Safari Consultants, 86 Gloucester Place, W1H 3PG (01-486 4774). Formerly Kenya-based, they moved to London four years ago.

Medical requirements: None official but injections against cholera and yellow fever, polio immunisation plus essential anti-malarial precautions, are recommended.

Best seasons: December to April and August to October. Rains normally late April and May; October to November. Lodges open all year; private safaris close down in May and November.

Further information: Kenya Tourist Office, 13 New Burlington Street, W1X 1FF (01-930 3837).

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The Lakeshore Limited links Chicago with Boston (and also with New York), covers 1,018 miles and again has daily services each way. It leaves Chicago at 6.30pm and arrives in Boston at 3.40pm the

next day. Westbound it leaves Boston at 5.15pm and arrives in Chicago the next day at 12.50pm. It provides a full meal, snack and beverage service. Single fare \$142 plus \$108 for a roomette, again with alternative accommodation.

AMTRAK also have a complete network ticket covering the system, valid for 14 days at \$375; 21 days, \$450; 30 days, \$525.

Further information: UK agents for AMTRAK are Thomas Cook, Box 36, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SB (0733 63200) or any Thomas Cook's branch. Overseas readers should inquire from AMTRAK, 400 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington DC 20001, USA.

CRUISING IN THE FAR EAST

The cruise described is being repeated twice in 1985. Departing on November 1 from London (Heathrow) passengers go by scheduled flight to Singapore, staying one night in the five-star Shangri-La Hotel. The *Royal Viking Star* leaves on November 3 and calls at Jakarta, Bali, Zamboanga (the "City of Flowers" in Mindanao, Philippines), Cebu, one of the most beautiful of the Philippine islands, Manila, and finishes in Hong Kong on November 16. A day will be spent there before the night flight back to London. An identical route will be followed from November 27 to December 12. Total length of each holiday is 16 nights. Fares £1,990 to £8,011 with 32 variations. Includes flights from and back to London, hotel in Singapore and all transfers. Cruise only costs are also available.

Further information: Royal Viking Line, 41-46 Piccadilly, W1V 9AJ (01-734 0773).

EXPLORING THE CANAL DU MIDI

The writer travelled on a boat from the Blue Line Fleet, which has 19 different types of vessel accommodating from two to 10 people. His boat was a Blue Bermuda class with sleeping accommodation for four to six. There are four bases but not all types of boat are available at each. The picking up point in this case was Marseillan; the Blue Bermuda is also available at Castelnau-d'Aud near Toulouse. The other bases, St Gilles and Beaucaire between Montpellier and Avignon, are mainly for Camargue cruising.

There are eight price grades according to season which for a Blue Bermuda type in 1985 will range from £225 to £564 per week, fuel extra. Each boat (no matter what grade) is supplied with navigational maps, and instruction is given before setting out. Free car parking is available at all bases. Blue Line cruisers are also available in Burgundy and Brittany.

They are also marketed by Blakes, the long-established yachting and boat hiring company. They offer a car-ferry package, using your own car to get to the south of France. This costs between £87 and £177 per person with four travelling together, and includes car-ferry charges for vehicle and passengers both ways and hire of cruiser of Blue Bermuda class. Alternatively fly to Montpellier, as the writer did. Then the cost per person is between £180 and £278 when four travel together and includes return air fare on scheduled flights from Gatwick to Montpellier, transfers to and from the cruiser and the hire of the cruiser. Blakes also have vessels for hire in Cognac, ➤

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HOLIDAYS ON THE MOVE

Alsace-Lorraine, Brittany and Burgundy.

The area described is covered by the Green Michelin Guide "Causses" (£5.95); the Michelin "Yellow" 1:200,000 map 83 (95p); and the larger scale "Green" Carte Touristique 1:100,000 maps 64, 65, 66 and 72 (£2.65 each). Free literature from the French Tourist Office.

Further information: Blue Line Cruises, Ferry View Estate, Horning, Norwich NR12 8PT (0692 630128). Blakes Holidays, Wroxham, Norwich NR12 8DH (06053 3224). French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, W1V 0AL (01-491 7622).

CARIBBEAN ISLAND HOPPING

For the independent traveller: *Getting there.* From the UK convenient starting points are Antigua, St Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad and Puerto Rico. British Airways flies from Heathrow to the first four; British Caledonian from Gatwick to Puerto Rico. International Caribbean fly from Gatwick to Barbados; BWIA International from Heathrow to Barbados and Trinidad. Sample return fares, Heathrow to Antigua, St Lucia, and Barbados (common tariff to all three): excursion, £375 to £440; Super Club, £1,220; 1st class £1,878. Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT), Carib Aviation and Air Martinique operate inter-island services. British Airways is LIAT's UK agent. *Hotels.* White Bay Sandcastle, Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands—daily full board rates \$140 to \$175. UK agent BVI Tourist Office, 48 Albemarle Street, W1X 4AR (01-629 6355). Montpelier Plantation Inn, Nevis—daily half board rates \$90 to \$145. UK agent Morris Kevan Associates. Vue Pointe Hotel, Montserrat—daily half board rates \$135 to \$165 for two sharing, \$100 to \$125 single, plus 17 per cent tax. UK agent Cougar Marketing.

All prices in US dollars per person with two sharing, unless otherwise stated.

Inclusive holidays: One of the most comprehensive West Indian selections is from Kuoni. A 15-day three island—Barbados, Tobago and Antigua—holiday, half board £838 to £1,135 from London. Also eight two-island holidays, a week on each e.g. St Lucia and Martinique, Antigua and Nevis. All half board, £891 to £1,534 from London. Speedbird (British Airways) also have a wide choice including Grenada, St Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat for one or two weeks. Prices from around £500 to £1,250 from London.

Cruises: Ocean Cruise Lines on their *de luxe*, 260-passenger, yacht-like *Ocean Islander* do a series of seven-day voyages from Barbados to Tobago, the Orinoco river in Venezuela, Grenada, through the Grenadines calling at Union and Palm Islands and Bequia, St Vincent, Martinique, St Lucia and Barbados. A 15-day holiday including three nights in Barbados at each end of the voyage is aimed at the UK market. Cost from London, £1,469 to £2,016. Fortnightly Wednesday departures until March 20 and again in late autumn. Kuoni and Cook's are the agents.

Further information: Morris Kevan Associates, 42 Chase Side, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 6NF (01-367 5175). Cougar Marketing, 304 Sandycombe Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3NG (01-948 7488). Kuoni Travel, Kuoni House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ (0306 885044). Speedbird Holidays, 152 King Street, W6 0QU (01-741 8041).

GHATS AND GODS OF INDIA

For the independent traveller: *Getting there.* Air India and British Airways have the most frequent services from London (Heathrow) to both Delhi and Bombay and these cities

are served by several other airlines. Current return fares: excursion, Advance Purchase allowing stay of 14 to 120 days, £610; standard economy, £1,118; Super Club, £1,286; 1st class, £1,984, no restrictions on the last three. Lower fares are available through many travel agents and "bucket shops" but with varying conditions attached, including non-direct routing train in India. *By train in India.* The Indrail Pass is issued for seven, 15, 21, 30, 60 and 90 days and gives unlimited travel on a selected class for that period. Rates all quoted in US dollars. For example, 15 days—air-conditioned class, \$200; 1st class, \$100; 2nd class, \$45. 90 days—\$600, \$300 and \$130 respectively. It can be purchased in India; available to all except Indian residents. Considered one of today's best travel bargains.

Inclusive holidays: The best and the most economic way for those who want to be assured as far as possible of a reasonable degree of comfort and efficiency. More than 30 companies offer Indian holidays. Here is a short selection: 16 days to Delhi, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Jaipur, Udaipur, Khajuraho, Varanasi, Nepal, Delhi—travel by air, train and car. Fortnightly departures from London, January to March and October to December, £1,248 with full breakfast throughout (Kuoni). 22-day Art Treasures of India and Nepal to include Bombay, Aurangabad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Varanasi, Agra, Kathmandu, Delhi, fully conducted tour with guest lecturer; travel by air and coach. Departures January 16; February 20; October 2. All meals except lunch in Delhi and Bombay, £2,146 (Swan Hellenic). Palace on Wheels. Nostalgic train of the Rajahs, tours Rajasthan to include Jaisalmer, Udaipur, Jaipur, Agra, Bharatpur Sanctuary, Delhi. One week plus three nights in Delhi. Departures January, February, March; £1,248 from London. (Various operators.)

Medical requirements: Injections for cholera, typhoid, paratyphoid and tetanus, and polio immunisation. Anti-malarial medication strongly advised. Consult your doctor or health clinic.

Best seasons: For the area covered, October to April.

Further information: Indian Government Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, W1X 2AB (01-437 3677). Kuoni Travel, Kuoni House, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 4AZ (0306 885044). Swan Hellenic, 29/55 Middlesex Street, E1 7AA (01-247 0401).

SAILING OFF YUGOSLAVIA

The writer went with Phoenix Holidays who specialize in Yugoslavia. Their fleet of 27 foot Jaguar yachts based at Veruda in Istria are solid, dependable, fully equipped (including safety devices) and comfortable, within their limitations. Designed to sleep six, a maximum of four is more realistic. One member of the crew party must have had previous experience of handling small yachts. Phoenix will pair novices with experienced hands. The company also arranges a week's sailing with a week in a hotel at Porec. All prices guaranteed for 1985.

Costs, per person, with four travelling together and sharing the yacht, range from £199 to £289 for the week. This covers the flight from Gatwick to Pula, boat insurance, transfers, fuel and the yacht, plus dinner on arrival. All other food is extra. A week's yachting plus a week in Porec on half board is between £266 and £419.

Further information: Phoenix Holidays, 29 Thurloe Place, SW7 2HP (01-581 4381). Yugoslav National Tourist Office, 143 Regent Street, W1R 8AE (01-734 5243).

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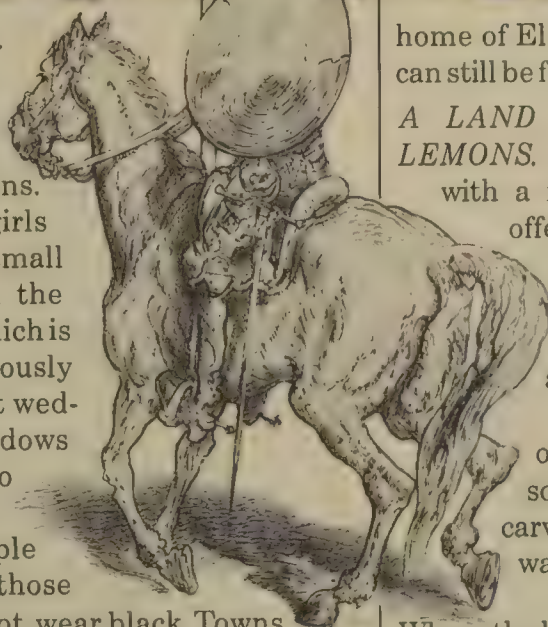
Look out for their symbolic decorations.

Single girls wear a small mirror in the crown, which is ceremoniously broken at weddings. Widows wishing to re-marry wear purple

ribbons; those

who do not, wear black. Towns and villages of historical interest such as Guadalupe and Trujillo, dot the surrounding countryside. All easily accessible from the monumental city of Cáceres.

THE IMPERIAL CITY. The name given to Toledo when Charles V made it the Capital in the 16th Century. The City's haunting beauty was later to become the



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London Theatres by Paul Hogarth 8: The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane



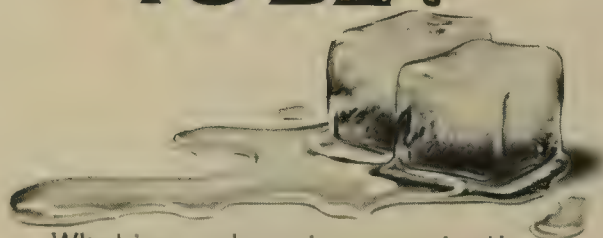
The first Theatre Royal on the site between Drury Lane and Catherine Street was built for Thomas Killigrew under royal charter from Charles II and opened on May 7, 1663. Nell Gwynne appeared there in 1665. When the building was burnt in 1672 a new one was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. David Garrick appeared there in 1742 and later took over the theatre. When he retired in 1776 Richard Brinsley Sheridan became manager and his play *The School for Scandal* opened in 1777. By 1791 the

building was in such bad repair that it was demolished. A new theatre opened in 1794 but that, too, burnt down, in 1809. The present theatre, designed by Benjamin Wyatt, opened in 1812, the portico being added in 1820 and the colonnade in 1831. Since the 1920s the Theatre Royal has been the home of the musical, with *The Desert Song* (1927), Ivor Novello's *The Dancing Years* (1939) and *Oklahoma!* (1947). The greatest success was *My Fair Lady* in 1958, which ran for a record 2,281 performances.

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MOTORING

Variation on a Thema

by Stuart Marshall

The new Saab 9000 could be termed a variation on a Thema by Lancia. Both Saab 9000 and Lancia Thema are large luxury cars produced by relatively small companies. Such is the cost of developing a new model nowadays that it is practical only if the investment can be spread over a huge number of cars—or among companies.

So Saab and Lancia co-operated in the early stages of developing their new flagship cars. There are some common body parts—the doors are perhaps the most obvious. Some components will also be used in a forthcoming big Fiat and later in an Alfa Romeo. But to the driver the similarities are purely superficial. They feel like different cars although they both share high performance, excellent handling and great refinement. They are transverse-engined, with front-wheel drive.

Thema is already a range of cars with engines varying from a 2 litre four-cylinder with fuel injection (plus a turbocharger if desired) to a V6 2.8 litre, again with petrol injection, and a 2.5 litre turbo-diesel. At present the Saab has only one engine—the familiar turbocharged 2 litre four-cylinder with a 16-valve head. All Themas have the same four-door saloon body; Saab has chosen to make the 9000 as a hatchback of near estate car utility. The slanting tailgate opens on to a flat sill level with the rear bumper. And Lancia has all-independent suspension while Saab retains its well tried lightweight rigid rear axle.

Neither car will be on sale in Britain until about the middle of the year when their prices will range from an estimated £10,000 for the least luxurious Thema 2 litre to more than £16,000 for the Saab.

I tried the Thema range in Austria and Bavaria, starting with the turbo-diesel which, with a maximum speed of 115 mph, dispels the old calumnies that diesel cars are slow and boring. It was quiet, too, and accelerated with a petrol car's vividness.

The 2 litre petrol engine with turbo-charger is a brand-new design, with balancing shafts to damp out vibrations so that it runs like an in-line six-cylinder at high revolutions. On the autobahn it held 125 mph with ease. On mountain roads it handled with a polo pony's nimbleness and obedience. The ride is level, and cornering at high speeds is secure. A slight twitchiness of the power-assisted steering—an over-eagerness to respond—is my only criticism. Top speed is around 135 mph.

The turbo-four-cylinder is the top Thema model. The one I tried had all four seats electrically adjustable, an automatically controlled air-conditioning system and every luxury fitment one could desire. The V6 is not quite so urgent, though still very fast. Anti-lock brakes, available on all Themas coming to Britain, allow one to make a panic stop while negotiating an S-bend in wet weather without risk.

Like most Saabs, the 9000 is strongly masculine in character; a car from which engineering integrity shines. The front seats are electrically heated; the driving position is faultless; and the layout of instruments and controls as efficient as those of a light aircraft. It is indecently fast for a 2 litre, five-seat car with plenty of room for full-sized people. On the autobahn, slightly aided by gradient, I saw 6,000 revolutions per minute in fifth gear. That equals 146 mph, which surprised the driver of a Porsche 911 Carrera who pulled over to let me by as much as it did me.

There is no need to keep using the delightful new five-speed gearbox to make good progress in the Saab because the engine develops so much torque (pulling power) at modest speeds. At anything over 3,000 rpm there is no point in changing down. Hanging on to top gear makes the 9000 surprisingly economical. I managed 24 mpg over 272 miles, which included a lot of cruising at 100 mph and more. At present Saab does not offer an automatic transmission though one is on its way. Lancia will have two-pedal Themas; British executive car buyers demand them.



Saab 9000—an "indecently fast" turbo hatchback.

The Caribbean before Columbus

by Victor Marchant

An excavation in progress on St Lucia by teams from Vienna University and from Britain has discovered burials and artifacts left by the Arawaks, a now-vanished tribe of South American Indians who first settled there 2,000 years ago.



Religious symbols found on St Lucia, and made by Arawaks more than 1,000 years ago, are almost certainly based on the Pitons, the island's volcanic peaks, above.

tradition). Symbols of these gods made of shell, clay or stone are found on Arawak sites. The god Yocahu is represented by conical shapes or conical projections, sometimes with a face at the side. This shape almost certainly represents peaks of volcanic origin, such as the St Lucian Pitons. The earliest examples were carved from conch shells and some from Guadeloupe have been dated to around 1,600 years ago. The making of these religious items ceased with the arrival of the Caribs—the gods shared the demise of the Arawaks.

There are also petroglyphs—rock carvings—on the islands and at least some of them seem to have had a religious meaning. Human figures in naturalistic or abstract forms are the

most common, but there are also animals and fish. The sun, moon and stars are also depicted and it has been suggested that the rayed sun and figures with prominent ribs may represent the priests. In St Lucia those at Dauphin appear to be of a male, female and child. In neighbouring St Vincent the rock carvings near Indian Point Bay and Layou probably represent the god Yocahu.

Well over 2,000 years ago there were even earlier Amerindians using worked stone tools in this region. They have been named the Ciboney. As hunter-gatherers they apparently cultivated no food and made no pottery. Their stone tools were larger than those of the Arawaks, who made theirs with a flaking technique, using a hammer-stone.

There is a strong possibility that the artifacts found at 4 metres' depth off St Lucia are traces of the Ciboneys.

A large proportion of the finds from the Pointe de Caille excavation is pottery, and by the thermoluminescence method a date AD 830 (± 70) has been obtained at the Institute of Nuclear Physics in Vienna. This has been reinforced by a similar AD 830 (± 50) obtained by Carbon 14 dating of carbonized wood.

There were three-legged vessels of coarse brown pottery and numerous examples of fine, yellow, polished ware. The rims of the vessels were often painted red and in some cases the paint covered the whole surface. A small amount of the pottery has dark brown or black decoration on red ground and there is also grooving or combing on rims, sides, or bottoms of some vessels. Among the fine pottery there are flat bowls with angular rims and quite different bowls with painted rims or tall handles with ornamentation.

Also found was part of a clay model of a shark with a human face on the lower side, part of a clay model of a canoe and a fragment of a clay snake's head with open mouth. A complete amulet of clay seems to depict a human figure and another is like a snake. There were also a number of spindle weights of varying shapes; a clay rattle in animal form; and pestles. Other tools found were mainly axes of various styles made of shell, bone or stone, and items almost certainly of religious significance included a "three-pointer" carved stone which was probably a symbol of the god Yocahu.

Food remains included cereals and beans. These are being examined by Professor Steininger of the Institute of Palaeontology of Vienna University.

Surprisingly, 26 human burials were found in extreme crouched position (knees up to the chin) and there were examples of grave goods such as stone tools and an axe made of shell.

Excavation of this site by Vienna University is continuing. There appear to be older features and the site is being steadily eroded by the sea. All the artifacts have been cleaned, numbered, restored, drawn and photographed and are in the possession of the St Lucia Archaeological & Historical Society.

Robert J. Devaux of that Society has produced an *Archaeological Chronology for St Lucia* and the material from Pointe de Caille can be placed at the end of his "Modified Saladoid (Barancoid)", before the Arawaks' climax.

Although funding is not yet complete, a local museum in which the artifacts will be housed is being constructed on the St Lucian coast opposite the uninhabited Maria Islands. Funds have been donated or promised by Geest, Barclays International, the Robert Kiln Trust, the World Wildlife Fund and others.

To many the Caribbean conjures up visions of exotic holidays in the sun; they may also let their imaginations wander back to the historical struggles in the area between, in particular, the British, French and Spanish, and to the pirates. Relatively few give any thought to the American Indian (Amerindian) Arawaks and Caribs, the earlier inhabitants of these islands, long vanished from the scene.

A significant archaeological excavation has recently been undertaken on the Windward Island of St Lucia, at Pointe de Caille, by a team from Vienna University under Professor Dr Herwig Friesinger with a team from the Windsor (Berkshire) Archaeological Group. The site—being eroded by the sea—was selected by Robert J. Devaux of St Lucia and myself and geophysically surveyed by Dr A. J. (Tony) Clark of the Windsor Group.

As well as friendly and hospitable inhabitants, St Lucia probably has the best scenery in the whole area. The island has a mountainous backbone covered with a rain forest, and the conical, sheer Pitons rise majestically from the sea to give a moody atmosphere of grandeur and antiquity. These peaks were indeed of religious significance to the Arawak inhabitants.

The island is probably one of the key places for unravelling the past of this fascinating region as, with nearby islands such as St Vincent and Guadeloupe, it appears to have been a Carib base when they were invading the Arawaks. This was happening in the smaller islands ("Lesser Antilles") before and after Columbus's landfall in the Caribbean in 1492 when he was trying to find a sea route to Asia.

Today there are no Arawaks on the Caribbean Islands. It seems that the Caribbean Arawaks were migrants from South America who reached the northernmost islands about 2,000 years ago, although another major emigration could have occurred later.

The Caribs—cannibals, *caribe* in Spanish and hence "Caribbean"—were from the same basic Amerindian stock and origin as the "peaceful" (as described by Columbus) Arawaks. Some apparent Caribs still remain in Dominica, and Amerindian genes are reflected elsewhere, including in St Lucia, particularly around Pointe Caribe. The remnants of Arawak and Carib stock can be located in South America, in Surinam and Guyana.

Unlike the Aztecs, Incas and Mayas, the Arawaks may have lacked architecture, but they had several gods. Apparently there were Yocahu, chief god, Atabeira, goddess of fertility, dog-shaped Optiel Guobiran—associated with the dead—and others. The spirits of the dead were called *opeia* and it is noteworthy that in St Lucia present-day magic ritual is called *obeah* (although this derives from African

Europe's hard-hit harvest

by Peta Fordham

The making of wine always depends upon Nature as well as man. The past three years of a tranquil relationship, when all seemed to go well almost everywhere, must have lulled many a *vigneron* into a pleasant sense of security. 1984 has been a severe shock. A depression hangs over most of Europe: it is a question, at best, of "quantity down, quality not too bad" or, sometimes, "variable", in almost all the European regions. Nature may, possibly, be wiser than we think: some of the older growers, who have seen many a fluctuation in weather patterns, say that the vines are "fatigued" by overstimulation and that a low-yield year will do them good. One popular region is even glad. The classic houses in Champagne, with a lowish crop of about average quality, know that it will mean the disappearance of the cheaper brands that have been around for a year or two, and will cause prices to "steady"—in other words to rise.

But there is widespread depression, nonetheless. Looking around France as a whole, reports of "fair quality" but low yields, serious damage to the Merlot grape in Bordeaux and the Grenache in hard-hit Rhône, remain.

The troubles here are repeated elsewhere: lack of sun at the desired time and too much of it at the exact moment when it caused undue activity in the vine and severely damaged setting; low night temperatures nipping tender growth; too little rain in some places and too much in others—and always at the wrong time.

The sad story is not confined to France. From Italy comes the same lament. Though full reports are not yet available we know that the yield is perhaps 25 to 30 per cent down on last year in the north, almost 50 per cent in Tuscany, and that hail seriously damaged the Frascati and the Muscat grapes for Asti Spumante, while 500 acres went in the Veneto during one catastrophic hailstorm.

Varied reports from Germany make it clear that earlier estimates of quantity were much too optimistic. The expected quality, too, is considerably lower than in the last few years and the top-quality wines appear to be almost non-existent, though pretty good average Qualitätswein is expected to be available. A delayed harvest here, which actually began in good weather, was bitterly disappointing, since the grapes yielded much less juice on pressing than was expected; and earlier wet weather had already rotted part of the

crop. One tends to forget how northerly Germany's vine-growing area is. At high altitude and in outlying valleys a good many grapes had difficulty in ripening at all.

Austria has suffered severely in quantity; quality appears to be satisfactory. Spain, too, has had its troubles—early frost, and then, after a reasonable summer, hail and Hurricane Hortensia, which caused a shortfall in Rioja though, fortunately, quality is good. Together with Navarre, there could be a 40 per cent drop in quantity.

The only cheerful report comes from Yugoslavia, where an 80 per cent crop of good quality is on target for exporting to Britain during the next year.

With such a negative story, there is one important factor to remember when buying. Top wines must be made from grapes of de-limited districts. Lesser ones need not. There are already tales of tankers speeding down to the south of France to collect anything good that can be used for blending. What this means is that among the *vins de table* and the *vins du pays* and their equivalents, there will be some good wine available in the right places. There is a lot to be said for relying on what one was lucky enough to buy last year in top wines and for choosing sound, lower classifications this year.

To the brave or informed this sounds like the supermarkets; and, judging by the brilliant tastings by, among others, Waitrose and a greatly upgraded Sainsbury's, there is certainly much there. But those who want really good outside advice might well be interested in the superb list just compiled by Lay & Wheeler of Colchester (supported by an equally superb tasting): contact Tim Ferguson for individual help. Tanners of Shrewsbury have great experience in this field, and Adnams of Southwold can be relied upon for adventurous recommendations of sound value. All of these have, at the time of writing, stocks of good lesser-known wines from previous years; and they will also be able to tell you, by the time this appears, what their prospects are for the 1984s.

Addresses: Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street, Colchester, Essex (0206 67261). Tanners, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury (0743 53421). Adnams Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk (0502 722424).

Wine of the month

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A gathering of experts

by Ursula Robertshaw

The first International Silver and Jewellery Fair and Seminar will be held at The Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane from February 1 to 4. There will be 35 or so exhibitors showing and selling high quality silver such as we illustrate on this page, together with jewelry, miniatures and objets de vertu. The format of the seminar will be similar to the highly successful ceramics fairs held at the same venue for the last three years—there will be another this year—inasmuch as, together with the selling side of the Fair, there will be the opportunity to attend one or more of a series of 11 lectures given by eminent scholars and specialists.

Judith Banister will be talking about silver and plate of the Classical Revolution and its aftermath; Shirley Bury, Keeper of the Metalwork Department at the Victoria & Albert Museum, will be talking about Neo-classical jewelry; Susan Hare, the knowledgeable librarian of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, will talk about that famous body and its treasures; Kenneth Snowman, chairman of Wartski's, will talk about Carl Fabergé and his philosophy. Dr Sigrid Barten of the Bellerive Museum, Zürich, John Culme of Sotheby's, Dr Yvonne Hackenbroch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Hugh Tait of the British Museum, Dr Johan R. Ter Molen of the Museum Boymans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam and Charles Truman of Christie's complete the impressive assembly of lecturers.

Full details are obtainable from the organizers, Brian and Anna Houghton, 3b Burlington Gardens, Old Bond Street, W1 (734 5491) ●

Top left, singing bird in a gilded cage, French, c 1860, from Rogers de Rin. Top right, Swiss/Burgundian religious chalice, c 1450, from I. J. Mazure, The Silver Vaults. Right, pair of candlesticks by Edward Wakelin, London 1753; waiter by Robert Abercrombe, London 1733; soup tureen by Thomas Robins, London 1809; wine coasters by Robert Hennell, London 1772, all from E. & C. T. Koopman. Bottom, decanter labels in silver and silver-gilt, 1775-1825, from Brian Beet.





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944 SERIES

The Queen's English

by Robert Blake

Queen Victoria in her letters and journals: a selection

by Christopher Hibbert
John Murray, £15.95

Queen Victoria never lets you down. Take her letters and diary entries at random and the reader is sure to find sentiments, sentences and expressions which could have been written by no one else—a combination of bluntness, vigour, common sense, naïveté and impetuosity which is inimitable. For example, her views on the idea of “a day of humiliation” because of the Crimean War: “. . . really to say that the great sinfulness of the nation has brought about this war when it is the selfishness and ambition of one man and his servants who have brought this about, while our conduct has been throughout actuated by unselfishness and honesty would be too manifestly repulsive to the feelings of every one, and would be a mere act of hypocrisy”.

Such sentiments may well have been felt by some of those in high places who attended the service at St Paul's after the Falklands War.

The Queen was very sensible on the Victoria Cross. To the War Secretary she wrote: “The motto would be better ‘For Valour’ than ‘For the Brave’, as this would lead to the inference that only those are deemed brave who have got the Victoria Cross.” Her view prevailed on this, but not on another aspect of the decoration. She thought that VC after a person's name “would not do . . . KG means a Knight of the Garter, CB a Companion of the Bath . . . etc. in all cases designating a person. No one could be called a Victoria Cross”. However, her solution, DVC (decorated with) or BVC (bearer of), did not win the day.

Christopher Hibbert, by judicious selection from the Queen's published letters and journals and also from unpublished material in the Royal Archives, has produced a fascinating book. In his introduction he says: “it has been calculated by Giles St Aubyn that she wrote on average about 2,500 words every day of her adult life, achieving a total of some 60 million in the course of her reign.”

Certainly the quantity of her output was astonishing, but, perhaps because of that very quantity, the quality of her handwriting was appalling. I can remember spending hours poring over her letters to Disraeli, many of them barely decipherable, especially when the lines spilled over into the broad black edges of the paper she invariably used after Prince Albert's death. One can sympathize with her secretary, Sir Henry Ponsonby, taking a quarter of an hour to read a short letter in which

he found—when he could read it—a complaint that the “atrocious and disgraceful writing” of a young peer at the Colonial Office was “too dreadful”. The letter was in fact perfectly legible though the script was rather childish.

One decision which is in some ways regrettable had to be made by the editor and his publishers. This is to print everything in the same type. Much of the idiosyncrasy of the Queen's letters depends on the heavy underlinings of words sometimes by as much as four strokes of the pen. They add, in Raymond Mortimer's words, “a vehement emphasis to her writing which made it all the more vivid”—as in “I never NEVER spent such an evening!! My dearest DEAREST DEAR Albert sat on a footstool by my side . . . How can I ever be thankful enough to have such a husband!” Obviously it would nowadays be very expensive to reproduce this in print in a book of 350 pages, though it has been done in the past, for example in Arthur Ponsonby's life of his father, Sir Henry, one of the most important books ever written about Queen Victoria, and also in the nine volumes of the *Letters of Queen Victoria* published by John Murray.

The book brings out the changes in the Queen's outlook and way of life together with the basic continuity. We read her record of Lord Melbourne's conversation which must have been very entertaining. For example, on the Coronation: “He said there was a large breakfast in the Jerusalem Chamber . . . he said, laughing, that whenever the clergy, or a dean and chapter had anything to do with anything, there's sure to be plenty to eat.” She was devoted to Melbourne. It is hard to believe that they were not half in love with each other. Then comes her marriage, by no means one of unchequered happiness but in retrospect the most blissful period of her life, ending with the premature loss which she attributed unfairly to her eldest son whose brief affair with an actress had greatly distressed the Prince Consort. “Oh! that boy—much as I pity I never can or shall look at him without a shudder . . .”

Finally there is the long widowhood during which she engaged to quite an inordinate degree in what has been called “the luxury of woe”. She also became much sharper in her language. There can be no doubt that she was a fierce political partisan well before the end of her life, and her dislike of Gladstone was not merely personal, though it was that also. “I quite agree in what you say about that dreadful man [Bismarck]” she wrote to the Crown Princess of Prussia. “No wonder you dislike Conservatives; but you would not if you lived here. Here they are the only security.” One cannot finish this book without feeling that in some ways she was a very unconstitutional monarch, though luckily it did not matter. Her Ministers guarded her to an extent inconceivable today.

Recent fiction

by Sally Emerson

The Witches of Eastwick

by John Updike
André Deutsch, £8.95

The Fourth Protocol

by Frederick Forsyth
Hutchinson, £9.95

Proof

by Dick Francis
Michael Joseph, £8.95

Dürer's sinister drawing *Four Witches* decorates the cover of Updike's new novel, *The Witches of Eastwick*, and sets its tone: wicked, outrageous, ambitious. Its main characters are three middle-class divorcees with lovers and ex-husbands. All three are witches. Alexandra Spofford is the earth-mother type while Sukie Rougemont is a pretty, neat journalist and Jane Smart is prim and rather less attractive. They are well drawn, credible characters. The women form a coven rather in the way that other women might meet for coffee mornings. Updike leaves no doubt as to whether the women are witches or not: he confidentially informs us that they are and what their powers are.

He explains the reason for their command of magic: “This air of Eastwick empowered women.” Indeed, most of the men in Eastwick, Rhode Island, are pawns in the games of its women, and this is in the 1960s, before feminism had taken control: “As Alexandra accepted first one and then several lovers, her cuckolded husband shrank to the dimensions and dryness of a doll, lying beside her in her great wide receptive bed at night like a painted log picked up at a roadside stand, or a stuffed baby alligator. By the time of their actual divorce her former lord and master had become mere dirt—matter in the wrong place, as her mother had briskly defined it long ago—some polychrome dust she swept up and kept in a jar as a souvenir.”

The mystery lies not in the women's witchcraft but in the man—Van Horne—who comes to Eastwick and moves into the Lenox mansion, a huge abandoned house on an island in the estuary. What are his powers? Which of the women will he fall in love with? Orgies and spells and strange events take place in the mansion revealing the jealousies, competition and love between the women.

Frederick Forsyth's new novel, *The Fourth Protocol*, opens on New Year's Eve, 1986, with a meticulous description of a London jewel robbery. The spotlight swivels over to Russia where Kim Philby is being asked for assistance by the Soviet leader to help undermine the West. Back in England the hero of the novel, John Preston, of MI5, has his important report on poli-

tical infiltration stifled by his rather sinister superior. Gradually, with consummate care and nerve, Forsyth shows how these scenes are part of the same drama on a world stage.

Each chapter provides the reader with interesting new facts, chiefly about the intelligence organizations of Britain, Russia and South Africa, but also about the best way to blow a safe or to make a murder look like an accident. Forsyth has even researched the living conditions of the Politburo: “Philby knew that every member of the Politburo, on elevation to that office, has the right to four residences. There is the family apartment on Kutozovskiy Prospekt which, unless the hierarchy falls into disgrace, will remain in the family for ever. Then there is the official villa in the Lenin Hills, always maintained with staff and comforts, inevitably bugged, and hardly ever used, save for the entertaining of foreign dignitaries. Thirdly comes the dacha in the forests west of Moscow, which the newly promoted big shot may design and build to his own tastes. Lastly, there is the summer retreat, often in the Crimea on the Black Sea . . .”

The plot centres on the Soviet plan Aurora, a top-secret scheme organized from the General Secretary's dacha in the forests and executed by their most highly trained agents. Only John Preston (good, decent, a very dull hero) in England is on the scent of their dastardly plan to breach the Fourth Protocol, the agreement not to bring nuclear weapons secretly into countries governed by the pact. The story moves swiftly and ingeniously, only getting bogged down in Forsyth's love of detail during Preston's investigations in South Africa. The characterization of the British is not good but some of the Russians come to life, in particular KGB man Yevgeni Karlov. Although *The Fourth Protocol* at first seems extremely anti-left wing, it is the Communist Karpov's good sense rather than the virtue of John Preston which helps to foil the Soviet leader's plan. The plot is mined with such surprises which blow up throughout the twisting, turning, mixture of fact and fiction, real person and invented character.

The new Dick Francis novel *Proof* was a disappointment, although a good and well written read. As usual, Dick Francis throws in plenty of information with his fiction, in this case facts about wine and spirits which at times reads as though copied from an encyclopedia. The hero, a wine merchant, is the same as all Francis's heroes, the type of quietly courageous person who never makes a mistake and has complete integrity. Although he is too good to be true (he also has the most extraordinary memory—even the police are impressed) our sympathies are with him, partly because his wife has died. The novel is nowhere near as skilfully put together as Forsyth's. There are too many loose ends and unexplained accidents.

Blackwood in disorder

by Jack Marx

The Blackwood Convention is one of such antiquity and simplicity that it is regarded by many as more or less fool-proof. But some self-contrived calamities arising from it are so essentially comic that even the sufferers may be induced to join in the merriment.

The West player on the hand below was a cheerful old gentleman who, when he was strongly supported by his partner, was apt to become overstimulated.

♠ 743 Dealer West
♥ KJ105 Game All
♦ A8764
♣ 3

♠ K ♠ AQ862
♥ 2 ♥ Q86
♦ KQJ109 ♦ void
♣ AKQJ65 ♣ 109742
♠ J1095
♥ A9743
♦ 532
♣ 8

West as dealer at Game All opened a modest One Club, natural and non-conventional, and North-South passed throughout. East responded One Spade, and West made a display of strength by reversing into Two Diamonds. Since his response at the one level promised little, East felt a mere correction to Three Clubs was virtually meaningless and accordingly affirmed real support for the suit and some genuine values by jumping to Four Clubs. This was no doubt theoretically correct but highly dangerous with this particular partner. To him the issue was now between a small or a grand slam, according to whether East had two Aces or three.

To his Four No-trump query, however, East admitted to only one Ace, disappointing but not utterly daunting. With diamonds of such quality he could play the hand safely at the Five Diamond contract now reached. Unhappily there turned out to be no safety at this contract. Repeated heart leads by the defence wrecked his control of trumps and confined him to seven tricks.

It did not pass unnoticed that the same factor, East's void, that had brought about the failure of Five Diamonds, would have ensured the success of West's hoped-for slam in clubs. How can West invite a slam without the use of Blackwood? Probably his best course is to show an extreme two-suiter with a rebid of Four Diamonds after Four Clubs and then East has to use his imagination and bid the club slam. A void in one of partner's suits, however useful in the play, is often unhelpful in the bidding.

A 10-card suit is not an everyday event and its rarity no doubt accounted for a certain degree of over-excitement on this little fantasy.

♠ QJ985 Dealer West
♥ 7 East-West Game
♦ 5
♣ QJ9875
♠ AK10764 ♠ 3
♥ 954 ♥ 3
♦ void ♦ AKQ1098
7632
♣ AK103 ♣ 2
♠ 2
♥ AKQJ10862
♦ J4
♣ 64

West	North	East	South
1♠	No	4NT	5♦ (!)
5♠	No	5NT	No
6♥	No	6NT	All Pass

Five Diamonds must have been one of South's most inspired psychics. West dutifully showed his two Aces by bidding two steps up. East was now well and truly fixed. A bid of Six Diamonds would surely have been taken by West as a cue-bid and a grand-slam trying spades. East bid Five No-trumps with the silent prayer that West would confess to only one King with a Six Diamond response. It was not to be, and East took a not wholly unreasonable gamble that West could stop South's real suit, whichever it was.

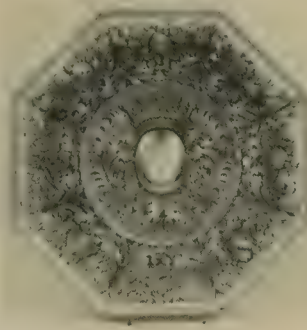
By contrast, this third hand registers a success for Blackwood, or rather for one of its many adaptations. It comes from a subsidiary team event at the North American Championships meeting held at Washington last summer. North-South were in desperate need of some superlative results.

♠ QJ764 Dealer North
♥ KJ1098 North-South
♦ K74 Game
♣ void

♠ K103 ♠ A952
♥ 5 ♥ 4
♦ J6 ♦ Q10982
♣ K1096532 ♣ AQ4
♠ 8
♥ AQ7632
♦ A53
♣ J87

West	North	East	South
3♣	1♠	No	2♥
No	4♣	No	4NT
No	5NT	No	6♥

North's opening bid is not typical of American practice, though few British players nurtured in the Acol tradition would omit to make it. Having started, North emphatically saw it through with a cue-bid in clubs. His Five No-trump bid was a response to Key-Card Blackwood, whereby a King in an agreed trump suit ranks as a fifth Ace. On their version Five No-trumps indicated an odd number of key cards plus a void somewhere. This seems rather dangerous but it worked. South had no wasted values in clubs and with ample trumps he could easily establish North's fifth spade for a diamond discard. East-West could save profitably at Seven Clubs and East's complete inactivity seems rather odd.



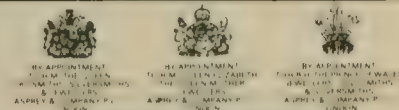
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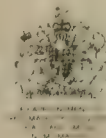
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A British triumph

by John Nunn

While the World Championship match has been in progress all eyes have been turned to Moscow, thus other interesting tournaments have been overshadowed. I mentioned one British success last month, but this time I can report on an even more spectacular triumph. Every year a top-level grandmaster event is held in the Dutch city of Tilburg, and even without Karpov, who has been a regular winner in the past, this year's line-up was impressive. Nevertheless, Tony Miles from Birmingham managed to win outright, not by Karpov's usual half a point, but by a massive 1½ points ahead of his nearest rivals.

The final scores were: Miles (GB) 8 (from 11), Belyavsky, Tukmakov (both USSR), Hübner (W Germany), Ribli (Hungary) 6½, Ljubojević (Yugoslavia) 6, Portisch (Hungary) and Timman (Netherlands) 5½, Andersson (Sweden) 5, Smyslov (USSR) 4½, Sosonko 3 and van der Wiel (both Netherlands) 2½.

It is always hard to compare performances separated by decades, but this is probably the best result by a British player in the 20th century. In the past Miles has been mentioned as a possible contender for the world title, but his form has always been too erratic. It remains to be seen whether Tilburg represents a genuine leap forward for Miles, but in any case the good form of the top board augurs well for England in the forthcoming World Team Championships.

Here is one of the five consecutive wins which took Miles into the lead.

A. J. Miles **J. Timman**
White Black

English Opening

1 P-QB4	P-K4
2 N-QB3	N-KB3
3 N-B3	N-B3
4 P-KN3	P-Q4
5 PxP	NxP
6 B-N2	N-N3
7 O-O	B-K2
8 P-QR3	B-K3
9 P-Q3	O-O
10 P-QN4	

The position closely resembles a Sicilian Dragon with colours reversed. Since the Dragon is a Miles speciality he must have been feeling happy at this stage.

10 ...P-B3

A solid continuation designed to restrict White's queen's bishop, but the more active 10 ...P-B4 is often preferred.

11 N-K4	Q-Q2
12 B-N2	P-QR3

A new move. Prior to this game Black players had tried 10 ...QR-Q1 and 10 ...KR-Q1, but with negative results in both cases.

13 Q-B2	B-R6
---------	------

14 N-B5	BxN
15 BxB	QxB
16 Q-N3ch	K-R1
17 PxB	N-Q2

Now White cannot snatch the stray pawn by 18 QxP because of 18 ...Q-K3! 19 QxBP NxP and if the queen tries to escape by 20 Q-N6, Black wins a piece by 20 ...N-R5.

18 P-Q4! QR-N1

After 18 ...PxP 19 QxP Q-K3 20 NxP NxN 21 BxN White makes off with an extra pawn, so Black has to waste time defending his weakness.

19 PxP	N(2)xKP
20 NxN	PxN?

Black should have played 20 ...NxN 21 BxN PxP to eliminate the dangerous White bishop. Now his position deteriorates further.

21 QR-Q1	R-B3
22 P-B4!	RxP

22 ...R-R3 23 R-B2 PxP 24 Q-B7 is even worse.

23 RxR	PxR
24 Q-B7	R-N1

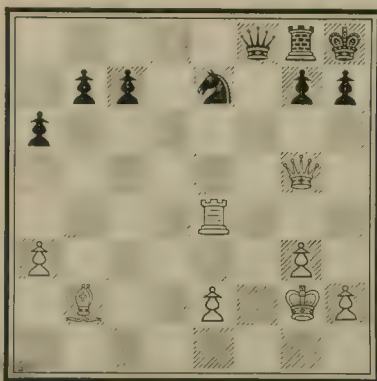
Although the rook appears well placed at Q1, the defensive knight at QB3 prevents the rook penetrating to the eighth rank. Therefore Miles decides to switch the rook to the more promising KB-file.

25 R-KB1! Q-N5

25 ...PxP allows mate in two by 26 QxNPch RxQ 27 R-B8.

26 RxP	Q-N4
27 K-N2	QxBP
28 R-K4	Q-B1
29 Q-R5	N-K2
30 Q-N5	

30 R-KB4 was tempting because 30 ...Q-K1 loses to 31 BxPch KxB 32 Q-K5ch K-R3 33 R-KR4ch K-N3 34 Q-K6ch K-N2 35 Q-R6ch K-B2 36 R-KB4ch, but Black can improve by 30 ...Q-Q1! intending ...Q-Q4ch.



30 ...N-N3?

A blunder which loses immediately. The best chance was to play 30 ...N-B4 (30 ...N-B3 31 R-KR4 Q-B2 32 Q-R6 Q-B4 33 P-K4 wins) 31 R-K5! (31 R-B4 N-K6ch 32 K-B3 Q-K1 33 R-K4 looks good, but Black can defend by 33 ...Q-B2ch! 34 KxN Q-N6ch) N-Q3 32 R-K7 N-B2, but after 33 Q-K3 Black is virtually paralysed and White can consume the queenside pawns at his leisure.

31 QxN Resigns

Reflection nebulae

by Patrick Moore

Have you ever watched a car coming up a misty road, on a dark night, with its headlights full on? If so, you will have noticed that around the lights there is a halo. This is due to the particles of mist being illuminated. We see the same sort of appearance in the sky, making up what are termed reflection nebulae.

Nebulae are of two main types. First there are the emission nebulae, of which the best-known example is in the Sword of Orion; it is easily visible with the naked eye, below the three bright stars of the Hunter's Belt, and it is known to be a stellar birthplace, where fresh stars are condensing out of the nebular material. The gas is made up largely of hydrogen, which is the most plentiful substance in the universe. The hydrogen atoms are split up or ionized by radiation from the very hot stars embedded in the nebula, and when these atoms recombine they give off light. Emission nebulae are common enough; some 5,000 million years ago our Sun was presumably born inside one of them.

True reflection nebulae are quite different. They are made up largely of "dust", and the material is not necessarily associated with the star making them visible; the dust-grains merely happen to be suitably placed. The grains are extremely small (on average, about a millionth of a metre in diameter), and they are by no means packed closely together; the usual density amounts to the equivalent of one grain in an area the size of the interior of St Paul's Cathedral.

Viewed with the eye at the telescope, reflection nebulae look white, but when photographed they show lovely colours—which are not visible directly because the level of illumination is too low, just as it is impossible to distinguish colours of objects by moonlight. Superb pictures have been taken by David Malin with the great reflector at the Anglo-Australian Observatory at Siding Spring in New South Wales. Some of the reflection nebulae show up as blue, and to explain this it will be helpful to consider the colour of our own sky during the daytime. The atmosphere "spreads around" the blue part of the Sun's light, and this is more easily scattered than the longer-wavelength red. This not only makes the sky blue, but also makes the Sun look slightly redder than it would otherwise do. In fact, the Sun is "deblued". Exactly the same principle applies to reflection nebulae, and the illuminating stars may look reddish even when they are not genuinely so.

Sometimes emission and reflection nebulae appear side by side. A good example of this is the famous Trifid Nebula in the constellation of Sagit-

tarius, the Archer, known officially as M20 because it was the 20th object in a famous list of star-clusters and nebulae drawn up by the French astronomer Charles Messier more than 200 years ago. M20 itself is a typical emission nebula, shining because of the hot stars inside it; it is distinguished by the prominent dark lanes which have given it its familiar nickname. David Malin's photographs show a blue reflection nebula adjoining it. Apparently the Trifid itself is embedded in a dusty sphere, which produces the blueness.

If the dusty material of a reflection nebula is not directly associated with the illuminating star, we have to assume that the star simply moves around and sometimes enters a dusty region, lighting it up until it emerges once more—a process which will take a very long time indeed. The light from the star is not directly blocked out, but is deflected by the process which is termed forward scatter—just as happens with the car headlights on a dark, misty night.

On the other hand there are some exceptional objects which come into a different category. One of these is the Toby Jug Nebula, so-called because of its somewhat jug-shaped appearance. Here we have a very old red star which is coming to the end of its main career and is puffing out material in all directions, so that for once the reflection nebula really is being manufactured by the star inside it. It has been carefully studied at infra-red wavelengths, and the results are somewhat surprising. The material seems to be made up of silicates—in other words, sand. Most of the thinly spread interstellar "dust" seems to be in the form of graphite, so that the Toby Jug is very unusual.

Reflection nebulae are important to modern astronomers. By now we have a fairly good idea of the life-stories of average stars, but we are less certain of the earliest and latest stages. Stars of moderate mass, such as our Sun, expand when they use up their reserves of nuclear "fuel" and throw off their outer layers, producing what are termed planetary nebulae—a bad name, since a planetary nebula is not truly a nebula and is certainly not a planet. After this stage the remnant of the star collapses into a very small, extremely dense White Dwarf. This will happen to the Sun eventually, though not for several thousands of millions of years yet. A more massive star may explode in a tremendous outburst known as a supernova, with its remnant forming an even smaller, denser object made up of neutrons; the classic case of this is the Crab Nebula in Taurus (the Bull). With an even more massive star, the end product may be a black hole, pulling so strongly that not even light can escape from it. Studies of reflection nebulae may give us vital clues about processes of this kind.

Tuesday, January 1

Paperchase trail laid by London Hash House Harriers (p69)

Tennis: World Doubles Championship opens at the Albert Hall (p67)

New Year's Day concert at the Barbican (p64)

□ New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 2

First night of *Great Expectations* at the Old Vic (p60)

For children: smugglers yesterday & today at the Royal Society of Arts; teddy bears' concert at the Barbican; magic lantern show at the Science Museum (p69)

Teams from the RSC & NT are quizzed at the National Theatre (p69)

□ Bank holiday Scotland

Thursday, January 3

London International Boat Show at Earls Court until January 13 (p69)

Tosca at the Coliseum (p66)

Friday, January 4

First day of Harrods sale (p69)

The Commonwealth Institute shows the work of Mauritian artist Claude Koenig (p70)

Saturday, January 5

Die Zauberflöte at Covent Garden (p66)

Rugby: England v Rumania at Twickenham (p67)

Sunday, January 6

Ballet gala night at the Festival Hall (p66)

Last chance to visit George Stubbs at the Tate & Henri Matisse at the Hayward Gallery (p68)

Model Engineer Exhibition closes at Wembley (p69)

□ Epiphany

Monday, January 7

Park Lane Group Young Artists series opens at the Purcell Room (p64)

Basketball: Kelloggs Cup Final at the Albert Hall (p67)

□ New moon

Tuesday, January 8

Playwright Howard Brenton reads his poems at the Lyttelton Theatre (p69)

Music & Machines opens at the Barbican (p64)

Wednesday, January 9

Film of *The Red Shoes* ballet with Shearer, Helpmann & Massine at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (p66)

Australian artist David Aspdon shows his work at Warwick Arts Trust (p68)

Thursday, January 10

London International Mime Festival opens (p60)

Lecture on the First Duke of Wellington at his London home (p69)

Film opening: Alex Cox's *Repo Man* (p62)

Revival of Royal Ballet's *Cinderella* at Covent Garden (p66)

Friday, January 11

Chagall retrospective opens at the Royal Academy (p68)

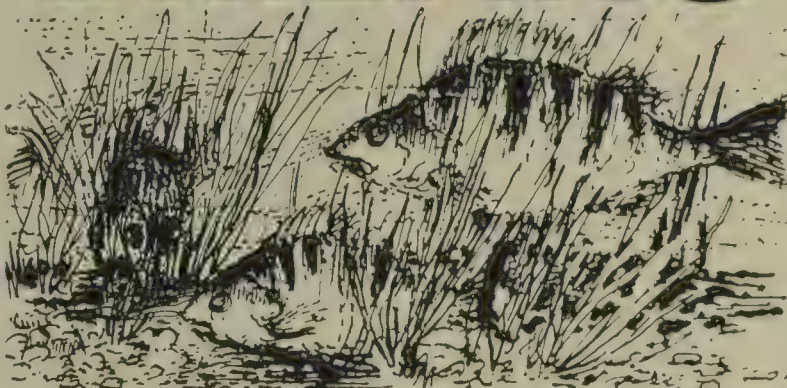
Film opening: Dick Lester's comedy *Finders Keepers* (p62)

Brent Festival of Music & Dance starts (p69)

Rigoletto at the Coliseum (p66)

Radu Lupu recital at the Queen

JANUARY BRIEFING



A line block by Lynton Lamb from the Folio Society edition of Walton's *The Compleat Angler*: the Festival of Illustration opens at the Festival Hall, January 19.

Elizabeth Hall (p65)

Saturday, January 12

New exhibitions: The Art of the China Painter at Stoke-on-Trent; Alan Craxford's contemporary jewelry at the V&A (p70); Television South West Arts at the Third Eye Centre in Glasgow (p68)

Sunday, January 13

John Bingham gives Chopin recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (p65)

Blessing of the plough ceremonies at Chichester Cathedral & Newchurch, Isle of Wight (p74)

International Chess Congress closes at Hastings (p74)

Monday, January 14

The first in a series of 1985 National Trust lectures is given by Alec Clifton-Taylor in the Purcell Room (p69)

Tuesday, January 15

First nights: Granville-Barker's *Waste* at The Pit; a new musical version of *The Wind in the Willows*, with Terry Scott, at Sadler's Wells (p60)

New exhibition: Town & Country at the Christopher Wood Gallery (p68)

Lecture on the history of the Museum of London costume collection (p69)

Wednesday, January 16

New exhibitions: Amanda Faulkner's paintings at Angela Flowers (p68); Bootscrapers at Ironbridge's Elton Gallery; Beyond Vision at the National Museum of Photography (p70)

Thursday, January 17

Royal Tournament Preview at the Albert Hall (p69)

First day of the International Contemporary Arts Fair at Olympia (p68)

West London Antiques Fair opens at Kensington Town Hall (p69)

Songmakers' Almanac at the Wigmore Hall (p65)

First instalment of Edgar Reitz's 15-hour film *Heimat* is shown in the West End; first showing of Miloš Forman's film version of the Peter Shaffer play *Amadeus* (p62)

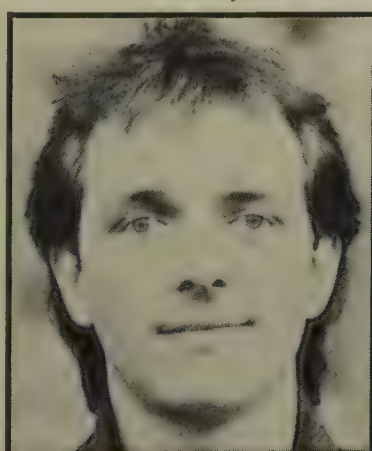
Friday, January 18

The work of non-European craftsmen is shown in New Horizons at the Festival Hall (p69)

Film opening: *Water*, with Leonard Rossiter making his last screen appearance (p63)

Saturday, January 19

Start of the Folio Festival of Illustration at the Festival Hall (p69)



Nola Rae, left, performs in the London International Mime Festival: January 10. Rik Mayall, right, is in *The Government Inspector* at the Olivier: January 31.

Mystery Plays, including *Doomsday*, the last in the cycle (p60)

Gymnastics: Gold Top Milk Champions' Cup at the Albert Hall (p67)

Sunday, January 20

Tippett 80th-birthday celebrations at the South Bank (p65)

Last day of James Tissot at the Barbican (p68)

Salisbury Antiques Fair opens (p74)

Monday, January 21

First of the *King Priam* opera study days at the British Museum (p69)

□ Full moon

Tuesday, January 22

RPO Brahms programme at the Festival Hall (p65)

Artist at Work: punt-building at Norwich Castle Museum until January 27 (p70)

Wednesday, January 23

Sir Michael Tippett conducts the LSO at the Festival Hall; first of 24 concerts at the South Bank celebrating the tercentenary of Bach, Handel & Scarlatti (p65)

Thursday, January 24

Kenneth Gilbert gives a harpsichord recital at the Wigmore Hall (p65)

Friday, January 25

Film opening: Louis Malle's *Crackers*, with Donald Sutherland (p62)

Saturday, January 26

Burns night celebrations at the Festival Hall (p69)

Tristan & Isolde at the Coliseum (p66)

Nash Ensemble concert at the Wigmore Hall (p65)

Commemoration of the Battle of Nantwich by members of the Sealed Knot (p74)

Sunday, January 27

First of three days of the Toy Fair at Kensington Town Hall (p69)

Snooker: Benson & Hedges Masters' Tournament opens at Wembley (p67)

Julian Bream recital at the Wigmore Hall; Daniel Barenboim recital at the Festival Hall (p65)

Monday, January 28

Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican (p64)

Tuesday, January 29

La traviata at Covent Garden (p66)

Jorge Bolet gives Debussy & Chopin recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (p65)

Wednesday, January 30

Hayward Gallery shows Renoir & John Walker (p68)

Peter Katin plays Chopin at the Wigmore Hall (p65)

Thursday, January 31

First night of Gogol's *The Government Inspector* directed by Adrian Mitchell (p60)

Solti conducts the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Festival Hall (p65)

Briefing researched by Angela Bird and Penny Watts-Russell.

Information correct at time of going to press. See listings for further details. Add 01- in front of seven-digit telephone numbers when calling from outside London.

THEATRE

J C TREWIN

WASTE, Harley Granville-Barker's fine and demanding play of a personal and political tragedy, which has not been acted in London for nearly 50 years, returns on January 15 with John Barton's RSC production at The Pit, with Daniel Massey, Judi Dench, Maria Aitken and Mark Dignam. When it was written in 1907 the Censor would not license it, though it had a private Stage Society showing. It is often forgotten now that there was another single performance in 1908—in effect, a reading—with, in the company, Mr and Mrs Bernard Shaw, Gilbert Murray, Mr and Mrs H. G. Wells, Laurence Housman, John Galsworthy, and ("his last Appearance on any Stage") William Archer.

□ Bill Bryden first directed his "promenade" productions of *The Passion* at the Cottesloe in 1977 and *The Nativity* in 1980, both selected from the English medieval mystery plays. Now, he completes the cycle—which goes from the Nativity of Christ to the Last Judgment—with a third play, *Doomsday*, opening on January 19 on one of the few occasions when all three can be seen on the same day.

□ The latest version of Dickens's *Great Expectations* opens for a month at the Old Vic on January 2, with Roy Dotrice, Sheila Burrell, and Ian McCurrugh as Pip.

□ A new production of Gogol's perennially welcome *The Government Inspector* arrives on January 31: Adrian Mitchell's new treatment at the Olivier, directed by Richard Eyre, has Rik Mayall as the young impostor, Khelestakov—a role which previously has been acted by Alec Guinness and Paul Scofield.

□ These continue to be good years for Kenneth Grahame's river-bank characters. After A. A. Milne's version, *Toad of Toad Hall*, there is now *The Wind in the Willows* (opening at Sadler's Wells on January 15) as a musical, with Terry Scott as Toad, Patrick Cargill as Ratty, Melvyn Hayes as Mole and Donald Hewlett as Badger.

NEW REVIEWS

Where applicable, a special telephone number is given for credit card bookings. Details of each theatre are given only on the first occasion it appears in each section.

The Ancient Mariner

"The Wedding Guest," said Coleridge, "is spellbound by the eye of the old seafaring man & constrained to hear his tale." It is hard not to be spellbound as Michael Bryant begins to speak in a voice that silences interruption. He is telling Coleridge's haunted "rime" that Michael Bogdanov illustrates with the storm-blast, the ice that "split with a thunder-fit", the killing of the albatross, the dreadful calm, the dancing of "the death-fires" in the water, the coming of the skeleton-ship & so on while the Olivier stage is transformed.

Bogdanov is a splendid director but he has some difficulty here, I think, in filling the time. There are rather too many shanties, & a long interval breaks the tension. Still, thanks to Michael Bryant's commanding voice, the poem does live, though I am puzzled by the arrival of the Bride beside the dying albatross. Not, maybe, that younger members of the audience will worry: the spectacle, as a whole, is excitingly & eerily contrived. Olivier, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (928 2252, cc 928 5933).

Extremities

In this American piece William Mastrosi-mone deals with a narrowly prevented rape, the victim's immediate revenge—which is as fierce as possible—and the trouble she may have to prove to the police exactly what happened. Meanwhile the thug, blinded by insect spray, has been tied up in a vacant fireplace, caged by the bars of a bedstead. It is curiously without real tension, but the house was applauding at the end, less—one must hope—for the play, which is by no means well written, than for the gallant

efforts of a quartet led by Helen Mirren as the tough young potential victim. Duchess, Catherine St, WC2 (836 8243, cc).

Of Mice & Men

The programme quotes "Yet each man kills the thing he loves..." So is it at the end of John Steinbeck's revived tragedy of a ranch in northern California when George, the deeply protective labourer, knows he must shoot the simpleton Lennie, whom he has watched over during their tramping from job to job.

Steinbeck has some comedy, but his tragedy is unsparing. It works steadily on our nerves through a piece constructed flawlessly &, from the first, with an agonizing inevitability. Lennie has no idea how strong he is; George cannot always be there to protect him. The friendship is achingly true, & the men are acted now by Clive Mantle (Lennie) & Lou Hirsch (George) with an honesty that never threatens to waver. We accept Lennie's simplicity without reserve just as we can accept all Steinbeck's characters—Susan Penhaligon, for one, as a doomed & foolish woman, longing as hopelessly for an ideal future as George & Lennie long for theirs. Having incautiously expected too little, I found myself clapping my hands sore. Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (236 5568, cc 741 9999).

She Stoops to Conquer

Goldsmith's play, founded on the memory of a trick worked on him in youth, should not be frosted over as an artificial comedy of manners. Rightly, Giles Block has not done so in a revival that is a bubble of high spirits, a cheerful palliative for anyone downcast. Tony Haygarth now acts Tony Lumpkin, theatrically the most promising part, with the soundest of good nature. Julia Watson is quite unforced as Kate, lady or barmaid—Goldsmith was innocently snobbish—and I am relieved that Hywel Bennett



Clive Mantle (Lennie) and Lou Hirsch (George) in *Of Mice and Men*: see new reviews.

has not exaggerated the diffident, stammering side of Marlow. Dora Bryan, with an accent like a sustained quack, is enjoyably professional as Mrs Hardcastle. Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (928 2252, cc 928 5933).

Trumpets & Raspberries

A slap-happy farce by Dario Fo in which Griff Rhys Jones interchanges rapidly between an Italian car magnate & one of his employees. Though behind all is a complexity of Italian politics, explained in the programme, most people will focus upon the farce which is uninspiring in the first half & brightens occasionally in the second: here the surprisingly mobile furniture of a working-class apartment in Turin is filled with secret-service agents. Still, it is scarcely a night to remember. Griff Rhys Jones, engaging when he is addressing the audience like a music-hall comedian, & always volatile, could find more variety in his two parts. I enjoyed most Gwen Taylor as the despairing wife. Phoenix, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (240 9661, cc 379 6433).

The Way of the World

William Gaskill's Chichester revival of last summer appears, at this remove, to have been a hazy prologue to the production behind the gold frame of the Haymarket. Certainly, in a theatre far more sympathetic

to the play & with some cast changes, everything has come together in a manner surprising to those who undervalue the piece because of its plot. I agree that Congreve's invention is alarming, but here we need think of it only as an eccentrically designed excuse for one of the most exquisitely written scenes, & some of the funniest, in English comedy.

Maggie Smith's Millamant has trebled her effect; she leaves a glitter in the air as she speaks. That silly, peevish Lady Wishfort becomes curiously endearing as Joan Plowright develops her. The men are within Congreve's frame: Michael Jayston's Mirabell, thoroughly honest if not naturally romantic; John Moffatt, re-creating every phrase of Witwoud; & Frank Barrie's Fainall, bringing the Restoration with him as he enters. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (930 9832, cc).

FIRST NIGHTS

Jan 2. Great Expectations

Stage version of Dickens's classic novel. See introduction. Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (928 7616, cc 261 1821). Until Feb 2.

Jan 10. 8th London International Mime Festival

Companies from Britain & five other countries, including Footsbarn with their version of *King Lear* (Shaw, Jan 10-13); Nola Rae (Shaw, Jan 15-18); Tom Leabhart (The Place, Jan 16, 17); Entr'acte (The Place, Jan 18, 19). Venues: Shaw, The Place, Battersea & Jackson's Lane Arts Centres, Drill Hall, Bloomsbury, Albany Empire. Information from 434 3531. Until Feb 2.

Jan 15. Waste

Revival of Harley Granville-Barker's play about a politician whose career is ruined by the scandal of adultery. See introduction. The Pit, Barbican, Silk St, EC2 (628 8795, 638 8891, cc).

Jan 15. The Wind in the Willows

See Christmas Shows.

Jan 19. The Mystery Plays

Two of Bill Bryden's earlier productions are joined by a new one. See introduction. Cottesloe, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (928 2252, cc 928 5933).

Jan 31. The Government Inspector

Richard Eyre's revival of Gogol's play. See introduction. Olivier, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (928 2252, cc 928 5933).



John Moffatt: *The Way of the World*.

ALSO PLAYING

Animal Farm

Peter Hall's lucid & exciting dramatic version of George Orwell's satire. Olivier, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (928 2252, cc 928 5933).

Benefactors

Michael Frayn's closely argued variation on the theme of change. With Polly Adams, Clive Francis, Jan Waters & Glyn Grain. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (836 9987, cc).

The Boy Friend

Sandy Wilson's people & songs from the 1920s have grown no older in the 1980s. Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (836 3878, cc 379 6565).

Breaking the Silence

Stephen Poliakoff's excellent play about a once wealthy Moscow household caught up in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution deserves a longer & wider life than in the current RSC repertory. The Pit, Barbican, Silk St, EC2 (628 8795, 638 8891, cc).

The Business of Murder

Richard Harris has written a taut thriller that does its duty, with Eric Lander & Richard Todd. May Fair, Stratton St, W1 (629 3036, cc).

Cats

Andrew Lloyd Webber's version of T. S. Eliot's cheerfully minor poems about cats. New London, Drury Lane, WC2 (405 0072, cc 404 4079).

Cider with Rosie

Stage version by James Roose-Evans of Laurie Lee's rural tale, with Christopher Timothy & Barbara Ewing. Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (858 7755, cc). Until Feb 2.

The Comedy of Errors

A revival over-stuffed with comic contrivances is directed by Adrian Noble & performed loyally by its RSC cast. Barbican, Silk St, EC2 (628 8795, 638 8891, cc).

Coriolanus

New production by Peter Hall, with Ian McKellen & Irene Worth. Olivier.

Corpse!

The fantastic events of the plot are compelling enough, with Keith Baxter & Milo O'Shea to support them. Apollo, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (437 2663, cc).

Daisy Pulls It Off

Sally Cookson is absolutely topping in Denise Deegan's glorious parody of 1920s school stories. Globe, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (437 1592, cc).

Evita

No weariness yet in Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's emotional music drama. Prince Edward, Old Compton St, W1 (437 6877, cc 439 8499).

Fool for Love

Sam Shepard's play has Ian Charleson & Julie Walters as a cowboy & his lover in a cheap Californian motel. Cottesloe, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (928 2252, cc 928 5933).

42nd Street

An American musical that is a benign example of show business at its self-conscious best. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (836 8108, cc).

40 Years On

Paul Eddington rules Alan Bennett's now celebrated comedy, as the headmaster of the school that speaks for England. Queen's, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (734 0261, cc).

Hamlet

Ron Daniels's noisy revival does not give us much to treasure but Roger Rees has his moments as the Prince. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwicks (0789 295623, cc). Until Jan 25.

Henry V

Adrian Noble's revival has Kenneth Branagh as a commanding Henry. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Until Jan 23.

The Hired Man

Howard Goodall's score, to a libretto by Melvyn Bragg, is the making of this musical, set over a quarter of a century in Cumbria. Astoria, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (734 4287, cc).

Intimate Exchanges

You may get any one of four variations of Alan Ayckbourn's basic theme, but none is unrewarding, thanks to the author's imagination & the protean quality of his players, Lavinia Bertram & Robin Herford. Ambassadors, West St, WC2 (836 6111, cc 741 9999).

A Little Hotel on the Side

John Mortimer's version of the Feydeau-Desvallières farce is wildly successful. Olivier.

Little Shop of Horrors

Musical about a plant, a blend of cactus & octopus, that grows into a terror. An acquired taste. Comedy, Panton St, SW1 (930 2578, cc 839 1438).

Loot

Dinsdale Landen in the black comedy—about a coffin, a bank robbery & a police inspector—prized by admirers of Joe Orton. Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (437 3686, cc 434 1050).

Love's Labour's Lost

Barry Kyle's revival of Shakespeare's irresistibly youthful comedy. Satisfying performances by Roger Rees, Kenneth Branagh, Emily Richards & Edmund Petherbridge. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Until Jan 26.

The Merchant of Venice

Visually eccentric production by John Caird & designer Ultz. Frances Tomelty is an able Portia & Ian McDiarmid as Shylock is impressive at the end of the trial scene. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Until Jan 26 (matinée).

Mother Courage

That fine actress Judi Dench does everything she can for Brecht's camp follower, but this elongated melodrama is no masterpiece. Barbican, Silk St, EC2 (628 8795, 638 8891, cc).

The Mousetrap

Though now in its 33rd year, many people cannot yet know Agatha Christie's solution of her puzzle; it is worth investigating. St Martin's, West St, WC2 (836 1443, cc 379 6433).

The Nerd

Rowan Atkinson plays the definitive bore perfectly in an American comedy by Larry Shue. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (836 6404, cc 379 6233).

Noises Off

Everything that happens in Michael Frayn's enjoyable farce is during the performance of another farce, *Nothing On*, the kind of wild touring business that can breed catastrophe. Savoy, Strand, WC2 (836 8888, cc 379 6219).

On Your Toes

A grand musical. Now with Galina Panova; Doreen Wells dances Wed evening & Sat matinéés. Palace, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (437 6834, cc 437 8327).

Pump Boys & Dinettes

A pleasant concert of country music with Paul Jones in the lead. Piccadilly, Denman St, W1 (437 4506, cc 379 6565).

The Real Thing

Stoppard's comedy with Michael Pennington & Lucy Gutteridge in the principal parts. Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (836 2660, cc). Until Feb 16.

Richard III

It is not easy to accept Richard as the hop-skip-&-jump goblin Antony Sher makes of him: still, he leads vigorously a cast that Bill Alexander has directed with invention. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Until Jan 24.

Rough Crossing

A celebrated Hungarian comedy by Molnár is behind this very free adaptation by Tom Stoppard, now set on board an Atlantic liner. Excellent performances by John Standing & Michael Kitchen. But it all tails away. Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (928 2252, cc 928 5933).

Run for Your Wife

Robin Askwith & Peter Sallis hurtle across the stage in Ray Cooney's farce. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (930 3216, cc 379 6565).

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13½

Play with music, based on the first of Sue Townsend's best-selling books about a boy's problems as he enters adolescence. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (836 3028, cc 379 6565).

Singin' in the Rain

Tommy Steele takes us through the worries of a Hollywood when the screen began to speak. Palladium, Argyll St, W1 (437 7373, cc 734 8961).

Starlight Express

Andrew Lloyd Webber & his director, Trevor Nunn, play amiably at trains, & the roller-skaters flash up, down & round the theatre. Apollo Victoria, Wilton Rd, SW1 (828 8665, cc 630 6262).

Stepping Out

Richard Harris's delightfully organized study of an amateur tap-dancing group is acted (& danced) with lively enthusiasm by all. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (836 5122, cc 836 9837).

Two Into One

A grand example of helter-skelter farce by Ray Cooney, monarch of his craft, matched by the acting of Donald Sinden & Michael Williams, monarchs of theirs. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (379 5399, cc 741 9999).

West Side Story

Bernstein's gang-war musical (Sondheim lyrics) returns as freshly as though the Sharks & the Jets had never been away. Her Majesty's, Haymarket, SW1 (930 6606, cc 930 4025).

Wild Honey

Michael Frayn's version of Chekhov's earliest play has Ian McKellen as the womanizing school-master, Platonov. Lyttelton.

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

The Ancient Mariner

See new reviews.

Cinderella

Traditional pantomime with Paul Nicholas, Bonnie Langford & Bill Owen. Wimbledon, Broadway, SW19 (540 0362, cc). Until Feb 9.

Dick Whittington

Barbara Windsor plays Dick, with Nicholas Parsons as Sarah the Cook. Orchard, Dartford, Kent (0322 77331, cc). Until Jan 26.

The Gingerbread Man

Peter Duncan in the title role of David Wood's play. Bloomsbury, Gordon St, WC1 (387 9629, cc 380 1453). Until Jan 13.

Humpty Dumpty

Ventriloquist Keith Harris & his bird Orville in a musical fairy tale. Dominion, Tottenham Court Rd, W1 (580 9562, cc 323 1576). Until Feb 9.

Jack & the Beanstalk

Suzanne Danielle with Jimmy Edwards, Kenneth Connor & Joan Sims. Richmond, The Green, Richmond, Surrey (940 0088, cc). Until Feb 2.

Jack & the Beanstalk & the Wild, Wild West

David Holman has adapted a classic story & relocated it in the Kansas wheatlands of the 1880s. Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (928 6363). Until Jan 19.

The Jungle Book

Fenella Fielding is Kaa the snake, with Jeremy Sinden as Baloo the bear. Adelphi, Strand, WC2 (836 7611, cc 836 7358). Until Jan 26.

The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe

Based on C. S. Lewis's story. Westminster, Palace St, SW1 (834 0283, cc 741 9999). Until Jan 12.

The Magic Touch

Johnny Hart & Zee are the two magicians in this show of illusion, song & dance. Magic Castle, Earham St, WC2 (240 6091, cc 741 9999).

Mother Goose

John Inman in the title role. Churchill, Bromley, Kent (460 6677, cc). Until Jan 19.

Peter Pan

Return of J. M. Barrie's play with John McAndrew as this year's Peter, Jane Carr as Wendy & Stephen Moore as Mr Darling & Captain Hook. Barbican, Silk St, EC2 (628 8795, 638 8891, cc). Until Jan 19.

Red Riding Hood

With James Saxon & Marjorie Yates. Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Sq, E15 (534 0310). Until Jan 19.

Sleeping Beauty

Jill Gascoine & Barry Cryer in a traditional pantomime, written by Graeme Garden. Shaw, 100 Euston Rd, NW1 (388 1394). Until Jan 5.

Toad of Toad Hall

Graham Chinn as Toad & David King as Badger in A. A. Milne's play from *The Wind in the Willows*. Fortune, Russell St, WC2 (836 2238, cc). Until Jan 12 (matinée performances).

Treasure Island

Musical with Frank Windsor as Long John Silver. Ashcroft, Croydon, Surrey (688 9291, cc 680 5955). Until Jan 19.

The Wind in the Willows

New musical version of Kenneth Grahame's book. See introduction. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Ave, WC1 (278 8916, cc). Jan 15-Feb 9.

The Wiz

Black version of *The Wizard of Oz*, with Celena Duncan as Dorothy. Lyric, King St, W6 (741 2311, cc). Until Feb 2.

A Wizard of Earthsea

A goatherd is destined to become a great wizard. Unicorn, Gt Newport St, WC2 (836 3334). Until Jan 13.

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CINEMA

GEORGE PERRY



Leonard Rossiter and Brenda Vaccaro in a seduction scene from *Water*: January 18.

UNFORTUNATELY LEONARD ROSSITER made few films, but his last appearance in HandMade's *Water* (reviewed below) was one of his best. Others whose deaths in 1984 impoverished the cinema included James Mason, Richard Burton, Diana Dors, Joseph Losey, François Truffaut and Carl Foreman.

□ The Premiere cinema, which was Cannon's designation for the former Columbia in Shaftesbury Avenue, is no more. Renamed the Curzon West End, it will, after refurbishment, be run by the same management as its sister cinema in Curzon Street. The company is also bravely building a new cinema just round the corner, in Charing Cross Road, adjacent to the Phoenix Theatre.

□ Later this month, Warner are releasing the Steve Martin film, *The Man With Two Brains*, straight on to video, in spite of good box-office returns in America. Martin's comedy style has never really caught fire in Britain, where he is not known as a television performer, and clearly the distributor is fearful of the inevitable loss that would result from a cinema release. The film, in which Martin plays a brain surgeon, with Kathleen Turner and David Warner co-starring as nymphomaniac patient and Viennese brain transplant surgeon, is entertaining and funny. It is a pity that it has not had the attention it deserves.

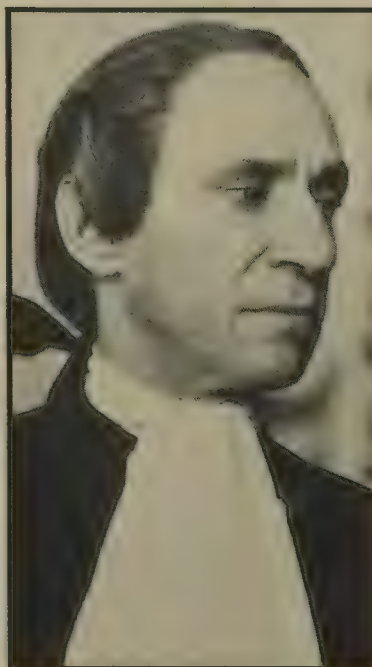
NEW REVIEWS AND PREMIERES

Films selected for review are expected to be showing in London or on general release at some time during the month. Programmes are often changed at short notice. Consult a local or daily newspaper for exact locations & times. Information on West End & Greater London showings in Odeon, ABC & Classic chains from 200 0200.

Amadeus (PG)

Peter Shaffer's immensely successful play has been filmed by Miloš Forman who, although now an American citizen, was able to return to his native Czechoslovakia & shoot in Prague, a substitution for 18th-century Vienna. The story concerns the jealousy felt by Salieri, the court composer to Emperor Joseph II, towards Mozart, whose musical gifts far exceed his own. Salieri leads the Italian *coterie* of musicians who hitherto have ruled the fashionable Viennese roost, while Mozart is an uncouth, unkempt, undisciplined youth—a former prodigy whose genius enables him to turn out prolific & perfect work. Salieri feels that God has chosen this insignificant creature as His voice, & accordingly finds himself in disagreement with Him.

The look & sound of the film are superb. The production design by Patricia von



F. Murray Abraham as court composer Antonio Salieri in *Amadeus*: January 17.

Brandenstein convincingly evokes the spirit of late 18th-century opera, & the music, conducted & supervised by Neville Martin, although by necessity heard often only in brief snatches, is impressively recorded.

The film is marred by its variable styles of acting. Some characters, particularly Mozart's wife, speak & behave like characters from a television soap opera, while others adopt a BBC classic serial approach—Roy Dotrice as Mozart's glowering father being the major example. F. Murray Abraham is rather good as Salieri, but Tom Hulce is a campish, giggling Mozart who behaves most of the time as though he has been on some modern drugs. The film becomes increasingly more hysterical, & the final scenes in a nightmare lunatic asylum offer an ironic reminder that the director's best film was *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Opens Jan 17. Royal charity première in the presence of the Prince & Princess of Wales in aid of the National Theatre Foundation & the Royal College of Music Centenary Appeal. ABC, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2. Jan 16.

Crackers (15)

It is strange that a director of Louis Malle's breadth of experience & reputation should make such a slight caper movie as this one. In spite of an agreeable style, it is unlikely to generate much excitement. It is set in an easy-going section of San Francisco, where Jack Warden runs a pawnbroking shop on a tight business basis, with no concessions for the motley group of neighbourhood layabouts, led by Donald Sutherland. They decide to rob the safe while its owner is away, & carry out a half-baked rooftop sortie with an unexpected conclusion. Malle & his screenwriter, Jeffrey Fiskin, have gone for cute characterization rather than for subtlety, & the result is disappointing. Opens Jan 25.

The Dogs (15)

French film, directed by Alain Jessua, with Gérard Depardieu, Victor Lanoux & Nicole Calfan. Opens Jan 10.

Finders Keepers (15)

Dick Lester's new film, a convoluted caper involving the theft of \$5 million worth of illegally earned money & a chase across America, has a curiously dated feel. It is not helped by the unattractiveness of the leading characters: a shiftless waster played by Michael O'Keefe, introduced at the beginning swindling a team of tough women rollerskaters; a dangerously unstable neurotic blonde he meets on a train, played by the excellent Beverly D'Angelo; & a black conman & accomplished crook, Louis Gossett Jr. The three of them become immersed in a complicated, bungled heist which necessitates disguises, chases & bloody encounters with pursuing hoods—the whole affair conducted with an almost manic comic relish.

It would be unfair to suggest that the film is not entertaining in parts—in fact some sequences, such as an absurd pursuit of a gangster's hideout which turns out to be a house that is being transported on a huge trailer along the highway, are filmed with the director's characteristic flair. But it is an uneven piece, & it suffers from being filmed in Canada, rather than the United States, so that there is an uneasy feeling that something is not quite right with the background details. Opens Jan 11.

The Grey Fox (PG)

Bill Miner was a 19th-century bandit who is supposed to have originated the command

"Hands up!". Justice caught up with him & he served 33 years in prison. This Canadian film shows what happened to him when he emerged into the 20th century, & got to grips with the changes that had gone on in the interim.

Richard Farnsworth delivers an engaging performance as the old robber &, in his first starring role in a 40-year career as stuntman & character actor, manages to hold the screen. It is the first feature directed by Philip Borsos, who has succeeded in re-creating the atmosphere of the Pacific Northwest at the turn of the century, with the intrusive automobile ousting the older forms of locomotion, & the weather unpredictably becoming cruelly damp. Opens early Jan.

Heimat (not yet certificated)

Edgar Reitz's 15-hour film about life in a mythical German village between 1919 & 1982 was originally made for television. Here, it is to be shown in several instalments. Opens Jan 17.

The Key (18)

Tinto Brass, who achieved notoriety with his extravagantly erotic & sadistic *Caligula* a few years back, resurfaces with this curious tale. Set in Venice, it is adapted from a novel by Junichiro Tanizaki, in which a husband with a frigid wife much younger than himself confides his sexual fantasies about her in a diary which he knows she will find. In turn, her own libido is stirred & she uses a diary of her own to relate her encounter with a lover.

Frank Finlay looks pained & uncomfortable as the husband, but Stefania Sandrelli leaps enthusiastically into the role of the awakened wife. Opens Jan 11.

Kings & Desperate Men (15)



Patrick McGoochan (above) is the egregious & acerbic host of a radio phone-in show who is kidnapped in his own studio by the leader of a group of radicals attempting to get a retrial of a man sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for running over a policeman. They engage in a verbal duel over the air & effectively rehearse the case while the city drops everything to listen.

Co-writer, producer, director & actor in the part of the hi-jacker is Alexis Kanner, who many years ago appeared with McGoochan in the television series, *The Prisoner*. His film, shot in a wintry Montreal, is stylish, unusual, dramatically compelling, but curiously implausible, with Andrea Marcovici as an elegant female terrorist & Margaret Trudeau as McGoochan's society wife. Opens Dec 28.

Repo Man (18)

A repo man is a legitimate car thief, an ugly fellow who repossesses cars on which the payments have lapsed. Alex Cox's film is an



Emilio Estevez in *Repo Man*: January 10.

engaging blend of absurd sci-fi & punk road movie, with a novice hero (Emilio Estevez) being taught the ropes by an old hand (Harry Dean Stanton). Somewhere in Los Angeles there is a car with a boot full of mysterious aliens which vaporize anyone who comes near, but there is a \$20,000 bounty for the finder. The film is crazy, hilarious & effectively constructed. Its British writer-director is an Oxford graduate who went to the UCLA Film School on a Fulbright scholarship. Opens Jan 10.

Water (15)
Dick Clement & Ian La Frenais have written a splendid comedy which tragically proved to be the last screen appearance of Leonard Rossiter. He plays a stuffy, womanizing civil servant charged with the task of throwing out the population of an obscure West Indian island colony so that it can be used as a dumping ground for Britain's nuclear waste. He meets his match in the eccentric governor, played by Michael Caine, whose career has been blighted by his unfortunate marriage to a promiscuous Guatemalan former showgirl, played with verve by Brenda Vaccaro.

An American oil company discovers water so sweet that it outdoes Perrier & proposes to market it, unaware that the French, with the connivance of the British government, are retaliating. Caine opts for UDI & joins the island's freedom fighters, one of whom is Billy Connolly.

It is an entertaining, witty fantasy, which combines the Tibby Clarke-Ealing tradition with a harder, more modern strand of satire. Dick Clement directed. Opens Jan 18.

ALSO SHOWING

L'amour par terre (15)
Two actresses (Geraldine Chaplin & Jane Birkin) are persuaded by a playwright to perform a strange play at his house. Directed by Jacques Rivette.

Annie's Coming Out (PG)
Australian film with Angela Punch McGregor as a psychiatric worker at a home for the mentally handicapped. She befriends a patient with cerebral palsy & embarks on a court case to obtain permission to remove her from the home.

Le Bal (PG)
Ettore Scola's wordless film encompasses 50 years in a faded Art Deco ballroom—a metaphor for life & relationships. More than an exercise in nostalgia, it is a wry comment on the absurdity of human existence.

The Brother from Another Planet (15)
John Sayles's comedy has Joe Mortimer as a black space alien who crash-lands in Harlem.

Caravan of Courage (U)
John Korty's film brings the furry little Ewoks,

first seen in *Return of the Jedi*, to the aid of two children who are searching for their parents after the crash of a spaceship.

A Christmas Carol (U)
Film version of Dickens's story, directed by Clive Donner. George C. Scott plays Scrooge, with David Warner, Susannah York, Edward Woodward & Frank Finlay.

A Christmas Story (PG)
Peter Billingsley plays a young boy who desperately yearns for a particular air rifle for Christmas. Directed by Bob Clark.

Dune (PG)
Science-fiction film based on a book by Frank Herbert. Directed by David Lynch, with Sting & Francesca Annis.

Full Moon in Paris (15)
Pascale Ogier plays a woman involved with three men in a film written & directed by Eric Rohmer.

Ghostbusters (PG)
Ivan Reitman's spectacular & very funny film has Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd & Harold Ramis as a team of parapsychologists offering a ghost-trapping service through the Yellow Pages.

Give My Regards to Broad Street (PG)
A shallow story—a day in the life of Paul McCartney—but there are some good songs on the excellent sound-track.

The Glitterdome (18)
Stuart Margolin's film is based on a novel by Joseph Wambaugh about a police investigation into murder in the Hollywood studios. With James Garner & Margot Kidder.

Gremlins (15)
Good special effects in Joe Dante's film, but the story about a strange furry animal which reproduces rapidly & takes over an entire town lacks both logic & common sense.

The Hotel New Hampshire (18)
Comedy, directed by Tony Richardson, about a bizarre family who owns hotels in Austria & America. With Nastassja Kinski, Jodie Foster, Rob Lowe & Beau Bridges.

The Killing Fields (15)
Roland Joffé's moving, horrific account of the agony suffered by an American journalist (played by Sam Waterston) who was a helpless witness to the seizure of his interpreter & close friend during the war in Cambodia.

The Last Starfighter (PG)
Dan O'Herlihy plays an iguana-like spacecraft navigator who befriends a teenage video game expert (Lance Guest). Together they defend the frontier of space against interstellar marauders.

Maria's Lovers (18)
Brilliant performance by Robert Mitchum as the father of a soldier (John Savage) returning to rural Pennsylvania to marry his childhood sweetheart (Nastassja Kinski). Mikhailov-Konchalovsky's film is elegiac & baleful, full of a sense of foreboding.

Not for Publication (15)
Comedy, directed by Paul Bartel, about two New York journalists involved in political corruption. With Nancy Allen & David Naughton.

The Pope of Greenwich Village (15)
Mickey Rourke & Eric Roberts play two unemployed men who plan a robbery in order to make some money. Directed by Stuart Rosenberg.

A Private Function (15)
Alan Bennett's comedy about a pig being illegally reared to be served up at the 1947 royal wedding celebrations is rich in humour, with acute observations of British foibles.

Stop Making Sense (PG)
Jonathan Demme's film covers performances by Talking Heads at four Hollywood concerts.

The Swing (PG)
German film, directed by Percy Adlon, about the relationship between two families of differing fortunes in 1889 Munich.

Tightrope (18)
An interesting, textured performance from Clint Eastwood as a New Orleans detective investigating a series of prostitutes' murders.

Certificates

U = unrestricted.

PG = passed for general exhibition, but parents are advised that the film contains material that they might prefer younger children not to see.

15 = no admittance under 15 years.

18 = no admittance under 18 years.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

MARGARET DAVIES

1985, tercentenary of the births of Bach, Handel and Scarlatti, has been designated European Music Year and 24 countries will take part in national and international events whose aim is to promote music in all its forms. One of the projects is the establishment of the European Baroque Orchestra, a training orchestra intended to increase the number of players of baroque music, for whom the demand has greatly expanded. For its first year the EBO will be based in Oxford and will make a tour of European festivals from July to September. Among other events in Britain there will be a conductors' course under the direction of Edward Downes, a composers' competition and an international summer school bringing together 60 young composers, performers and choreographers. European Music Year events this month in London include the Park Lane Group's young artists and 20th-century music series at the Purcell Room, January 7-11, and a multicultural music conference at Middlesex Polytechnic, January 26-27. Further details from the Secretary, European Music Year, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS.

□ In honour of the 80th birthday of Sir Michael Tippett, there will be a day of celebration at the South Bank on January 20. In the afternoon Paul Crossley plays the four piano sonatas, giving the first European performance of Sonata No 4, which was written for him, and in the evening the London Sinfonietta performs two of Tippett's major orchestral works. There are further birthday concerts at the Festival Hall on January 23, when Tippett conducts his Symphony No 4, January 25 and 27.

The London Sinfonietta concert on January 20 is the first of seven which the orchestra is devoting to music composed since 1955. Further programmes at St John's on January 24 and 31 include premières of works by Maw, Kurtág, Boulez and Ruders. The series continues in February.

□ Under the title Music and Machines the BBC is presenting a week-long exploration of the music of Karlheinz Stockhausen at the Barbican, starting on January 7 with a filmed lecture in which the composer traces the progression of his music. There will be open rehearsals in the mornings and afternoons of January 8-16 and evening performances of the major works composed between 1953 and 1971. The final concert on January 16 by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Peter Eötvös will be devoted to a complete performance of *Hymnen*, with the composer in charge of sound projection and his sons Markus and Simon on synthesizers.

CONCERT AND RECITAL GUIDE

ALBERT HALL

Kensington Gore, SW7 (589 8212, cc 589 9465).
Jan 13, 7.30pm. **Wren Orchestra of London**, massed choirs from London, Nottingham & Gothenburg, conductor Farncombe; John Birch, organ; Barbara Hendricks, soprano; Anne Wickens, contralto; Thomas Edmonds, tenor; Oddbjørn Tennfjord, bass. Handel, Messiah.
Jan 18, 25, 7.45pm. **London Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor Glover. Berlioz, Overture Le Carnaval Romain; Beethoven, Violin Concerto; Dvořák, Symphony No 8.

BARBICAN

Silk St, EC2 (628 8795, 638 8891, cc).
Jan 1, 7.45pm. **London Symphony Orchestra**; John Georgiadis, director & violin. Music by the Strauss family.
Jan 4, 7.45pm. **London Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor Freeman; Maximiliano Damerini, piano. Verdi, Overture The Force of Destiny; Brahms, Piano Concerto No 1; Beethoven, Symphony No 5.
Jan 8, 8.15pm. **BBC Symphony Orchestra**, conductor Eötvös; Karlheinz Stockhausen, sound projection; Bernhard Wambach, piano. Stockhausen, Mixture (Versions 1 & 2), Klavierstück X.
Jan 9, 7.45pm. **Ingo Metzmacher**, piano; **Andreas Boettger**, percussion; Karlheinz Stockhausen, sound projection. Stockhausen, Electronic Studies 1 & 2, Gesang der Jünglinge, Kontakte. Introduced by the composer.
Jan 10, 7.45pm. **BBC Singers**, conductor Aldis; Pascal Dusapin, Hammond organ; Michael Barker, recorder; Michael Vetter, voice; John Rushby-Smith, sound projection. Stockhausen, Mikrophonie II, Solo, Spiral, Telemusik. Introduced by the composer.
Jan 11, 7.45pm. **Bruno Canino & Antonio Ballista**, pianos; John Rushby-Smith, sound projection. Stockhausen, Mantra.

Jan 12, 7.45pm. **Singcircle**, director Rose; Wolfgang Fromme, tenor; Karlheinz Stockhausen, sound projection. Stockhausen, Stimmung.
Jan 16, 7pm. **BBC Symphony Orchestra**, conductor Eötvös; Ingo Metzmacher, piano; Andreas Boettger, percussion; Markus Stockhausen, trumpet-synthesizer; Simon Stockhausen, saxophone-synthesizer; Karlheinz Stockhausen, sound projection. Stockhausen, Hymnen (complete).
Jan 18, 1pm. **Antony Peebles**, piano. Beethoven, Sonata in F minor (Appassionata); Chopin, Waltzes in A flat Op 69 No 1 & Op 34 No 1, Four Studies from Op 10 Nos 1, 3, 11, 12, Nocturne in D flat Op 27 No 2, Scherzo in C sharp minor Op 39.
Jan 18, 7.45pm. **City of London Sinfonia**; Yan Pascal Tortelier, conductor & violin; Gordon Hunt, oboe. Handel, Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 1; Albinoni, Oboe Concerto No 3; Bach, Concerto for Violin & Oboe; Vivaldi, The Four Seasons.
Jan 19, 7.45pm. **London Symphony Orchestra**, conductor Tortelier; Ju Hee Suh, piano. Berlioz, Overture Le Corsaire; Beethoven, Piano Concerto No 1; Fauré, Incidental music to Pelléas et Mélisande; Saint-Saëns, Danse macabre; Ravel, La Valse.
Jan 20, 7.30pm. **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor M. Fischer-Dieskau; Vovka Ashkenazy, piano. Mozart, Overture The Marriage of Figaro; Handel, Water Music; Grieg, Piano Concerto; Beethoven, Symphony No 3 (Eroica).
Jan 21, 7.45pm. **London Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor Kaplow; Enrique Perez de Guzman, piano. Berlioz, Overture Le Carnaval Romain; Beethoven, Piano Concerto No 5 (Emperor); Tchaikovsky, Symphony No 5.
Jan 22, 1pm. **Orchestra of St John's Smith Square**, conductor Lubbock; Rosemary Furniss, violin. Mozart, Violin Concerto No 5, Symphony No 29.
Jan 23, 1pm. **Beaux Arts Trio**. Beethoven, Piano Trio in B flat Op 97 (The Archduke).
Jan 24, 7.45pm. **London Symphony Orchestra**,



Karlheinz Stockhausen: Music and Machines at the Barbican, January 7-16.

conductor Barshai; Ju Hee Suh, piano. Mussorgsky, A Night on the Bare Mountain; Rachmaninov, Piano Concerto No 3; Brahms, Symphony No 1.
Jan 27, 7.30pm. **London Symphony Orchestra**, conductor N. Del Mar; Jack Brymer, clarinet. R. Strauss, Don Juan; Mozart, Clarinet Concerto; Finzi, Clarinet Concerto; Tchaikovsky, Symphony No 4.
Jan 28, 7.45pm. **Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra**, conductor Wit; Nigel Kennedy, violin. Glinka, Overture Russlan & Ludmilla; Brahms, Violin Concerto; Penderecki, The Awakening of Jacob; Mussorgsky/Ravel, Pictures from an Exhibition.
Jan 29, 1pm. **Orchestra of St John's Smith Square**, conductor Lubbock; Julian Farrell, clarinet. Mozart, Clarinet Concerto, Symphony No 40.
Jan 29, 7.45pm. **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor Temirkanov; Peter Donohoe, piano. Prokofiev, Suite Lieutenant Kijé; Rachmaninov, Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini; Rimsky-Korsakov, Scheherazade.
Jan 30, 7.45pm. **Northern Sinfonia**, conductor Hickox; Janet Baker, mezzo-soprano. Mozart, Overture The Marriage of Figaro; Berlioz, Les nuits d'été; Beethoven, Symphony No 6 (Pastoral).

ST JOHN'S

Smith Sq, SW1 (222 1061).
Jan 3, 1.15pm. **Sheelagh Whitear**, mezzo-soprano; **Paul Hamburger**, piano. Scarlatti, Haydn, Rossini, Brahms, Honegger, Falla, Rautavaara, Gurney, Quilter.
Jan 7, 1pm. **Delmé Quartet**. Mozart, Quartet No 23; Simpson, Quartet No 7.
Jan 7, 7pm. **Raglan Baroque Players & Singers**, conductor Kraemer; Patrizia Kwella, Gillian Fisher, Bronwen Mills, sopranos; Nicholas Sillitoe, treble; Wynford Evans, William Kendall, tenors; Stephen Varcoe, baritone. Handel, L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato (1740).
Jan 14, 1pm. **Hans Leygraf**, piano. Haydn, Sonata No 49; Mozart, Fantasia & Sonata in C minor K475/457.
Jan 20, 7.30pm. **New Macnaghten Concerts**; **Markus Stockhausen**, trumpet; **Robyn Schulskowsky**, percussion. Stockhausen, Tierkreis, Protests; Zimmermann, Glockenspiel; Kraft, Encounters III; & an improvisation.
Jan 21, 1pm. **Beaux Arts Trio**. Fauré, Piano Trio in D minor Op 120; Ravel, Piano Trio in A minor.
Jan 22, 7.30pm. **Lontano Ensemble**, conductor de la Martínez. Debussy, Sonata for violin & piano, Cello Sonata; Dillon, Who do you love?; Guézec, String Trio; Xenakis, Morsima-amorsima.

Jan 23, 7.30pm. **Wren Orchestra of London, London Choral Society**, conductor Kasprzyk; Sheila Armstrong, Marie McLaughlin, sopranos; Maldwyn Davies, tenor; Matthew Best, bass. Beethoven, Symphony No 2; Mozart, Mass in C minor.
Jan 24, 7.30pm. **London Sinfonietta**, conductor Pay; Adrienne Csengery, soprano. Ligeti, Horn trio; Kurtág, Scenes from a Novel; Maw, Life Studies.
Jan 28, 1pm. **Alicia de Larrocha**, piano. Soler, Sonatas in D minor & G minor; Mompou, Musica Callada Book IV; Esplá, Sonata Española.
Jan 31, 7.30pm. **London Sinfonietta**, conductor Knussen; Deborah Cook, soprano; John Constable, harpsichord; Ian Brown, piano; James Holland, vibraphone. Holloway, Showpiece; Goehr, Behold the Sun; Ruders, Symphonic Dances; Boulez, Dérive; Carter, Double Concerto.

SOUTH BANK

SE1 (928 3191, cc 928 8800).
(FH = Festival Hall, EH = Queen Elizabeth Hall, PR = Purcell Room)
Jan 6, 7.15pm. **Konstanze Eickhorst**, piano. Bach, Toccata & Fugue in D BWV912; Brahms, Sonata in C Op 1; Mozart, Twelve Variations on La belle Française; Beethoven, Sonata in C minor Op 111.
EH.
Jan 7, 6pm. **Obelisk**; **David Wilson**, oboe/oboe with projections. Britten, Six Metamorphoses after Ovid; Amy, Jeux for oboe & tape; Cowie, new work for unaccompanied oboe; Globokar, Atemstudie for unaccompanied oboe. PR.
Jan 7, 7.30pm. **Anna Noakes**, flute; **Louise Johnson**, harp; **Elizabeth Anderson**, cello; **Nigel Clayton**, piano. Janáček, Fairy Tale for cello & piano; Rorem, Book of Hours for flute & harp; Leighton, Alleluia Pascha Nostrum for cello & piano; Alwyn, Naiades, Fantasy Sonata for flute & harp; Benjamin, Duo for cello & piano. PR.
Jan 7, 7.45pm. **Alexander Baillie**, cello; **Piers Lane**, piano. Prokofiev, Sonata in C Op 119; Schubert, Sonata in A minor (Arpeggione); Takemitsu, Orion for cello & piano; Franck, Sonata in A. EH.
Jan 8, 6pm. **Jadwiga Kotowska**, flute; **Barbara Halska**, piano. Yun, Garak; Maderna, Honeyreves; Boulez, Sonatine; Benjamin, Flight; Martin, Ballade. PR.
Jan 8, 7.30pm. **Marini Trombone Ensemble**; **Tuija Hakila**, piano. Serocki, Suite for trombone ensemble; Benjamin, Piano Sonata; Gregson, Sonata for trombone ensemble; Lutoslawski, Two Piano Studies; Debussy, Piano Studies; Maxwell, Incantations for trombone ensemble; Bark-Rabe,

POPULAR MUSIC
DEREK JEWELL

Saxist George Coleman: at Ronnie Scott's for a fortnight from January 7.

Bolos for trombone ensemble. *PR.*

Jan 9, 6pm. **Nicola Meecham**, piano. Leighton, Variations Op 30; Gruber, Luftschlosser; Gerhard, Dances from Don Quixote. *PR.*

Jan 9, 7.30pm. **Latarche Trio**; **Geraldine Wells**, soprano; **Martin Parry**, piano. Leighton, Fantasy on an American Hymn Tune; Szymanowski, Des Hafis Liebeslieder; Tippett, The Heart's Assurance; Gowers, new song cycle; Zemlinsky, Trio in D minor Op 3. *PR.*

Jan 10, 6pm. **Jonathan Impett**, trumpet with tape. Badings, Chaconne for trumpet & tape; Pousseur, Flexions II; Harvey, new work; Eolpe, Piece for unaccompanied trumpet; Smalley, Echo III for trumpet & double tape delay. *PR.*

Jan 10, 7.30pm. **Addison Trio**; **Penelope Roskell**, piano. Stravinsky, Piano Sonata; Crosse, Fear No More for trio; Salter, new work for oboe trio; Leighton, Nine Variations Op 36; Roxburgh, new work for oboe trio; Benjamin, Sortilèges for piano; Skalkottas, Ten Piano Pieces. *PR.*

Jan 11, 6pm. **Claire & Antoinette Cann**, two pianos. Stravinsky, Concerto for two pianos; Leighton, Scherzo; Shostakovich, Concertino Op 94; Ravel, La Valse. *PR.*

Jan 11, 7.30pm. **Artemis Horn Quartet**; **Madeleine Mitchell**, violin; **Klaus Zoll**, piano. Messiaen, Theme & Variations for violin & piano; Stevens, Violin Sonata; Tippett, Sonata for four horns; Debussy, Violin Sonata; Nash, new work for horn quartet; Leighton, Metamorphoses for violin & piano; Searle, Prelude, Nocturne & Chase for horn quartet Op 72. *PR.*

Jan 11, 7.45pm. **Radu Lupu**, piano. Beethoven, Sonatas in E Op 109, in A flat Op 110; Schumann, Fantasy in C Op 17. *EH.*

Jan 12, 7.30pm. **London Orpheus Orchestra & Choir**, conductor Gaddam; Jacquelyn Fugelle, soprano; Christopher Robson, counter-tenor; Wynford Evans, tenor; Alan Fair, bass; Leslie Pearson, harpsichord; John Birch, organ. Handel, Messiah. *EH.*

Jan 13, 3pm. **John Bingham**, piano. Chopin, Sonata in B minor Op 58, 24 Preludes Op 28. *EH.*

Jan 13, 7.15pm. **Vivaldi Concertante**, conductor J. Pilbery; Arturo Bonucci, cello; Mary Pilbery, oboe. Handel, Arrival of the Queen of Sheba; Vivaldi, Cello Concerto in C minor, Concerto in G for strings & continuo (Alla Rustica); Cimarosa, Oboe Concerto; Boccherini, Cello Concerto in B flat, Symphony in B flat. *EH.*

Jan 14, 8pm. **Hartley Piano Trio**. Haydn, Trio in C Hob XV:25; Beethoven, Trio in E flat Op 70 No 2; Ravel, Trio in A minor. *PR.*

Jan 17, 7.45pm. **Academy of Ancient Music**, director Hogwood; Emma Kirkby, soprano; David Thomas, bass; Catherine MacKintosh, violin; Christopher Hiron, violin. Bach, Concerto in D minor for two violins BWV1043, Suite No 3; Handel, Apollo & Daphne. *EH.*

Jan 18, 7.45pm. **Endymion Ensemble**, conductor Whitfield; Felicity Palmer, mezzo-soprano. Britten, Sinfonietta, Phaedra; Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No 3; Stravinsky, Dumbarton Oaks; Mahler, Symphony No 5 (Adagietto). *EH.*

Jan 19, 7.30pm. **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor Berglund; Ivo Pogorelich, piano. Prokofiev, March & Scherzo from The Love of Three Oranges, Piano Concerto No 3; Shostakovich, Symphony No 5. *EH.*

Jan 20, 3.15pm. **Paul Crossley**, piano. Tippett, Sonatas 1-4. (Preceded by *A Full Life*, a film of Sir Michael Tippett in conversation with Jill Cochran, admission free to ticket holders of this & of the Festival Hall concert at 7.30pm. 2.15pm.) *EH.*

Jan 20, 7.30pm. **London Sinfonietta & Chorus**, conductor Atherton; John Shirley-Quirk, baritone; Ernst Kovacic, violin; Rivka Golani, viola; Karine Georgian, cello. Tippett, Triple Concerto for violin, viola, cello & orchestra, The Vision of St Augustine. *EH.*

Jan 21, 7.45pm. **Marius May**, cello; **Roger Vignoles**, piano. Vivaldi, Sonata in E minor; Bach, Suite No 3 for unaccompanied cello BWV1009; Schumann, Adagio & Allegro Op 70; Paganini, Two Caprices Nos 13 & 24; Chopin, Sonata in G minor Op 65. *EH.*

Jan 22, 7.30pm. **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor Weller; Cristina Ortiz, piano. Brahms, Piano Concerto No 2, Symphony No 4. *EH.*

Jan 23, 5.55pm. **Yorkshire Baroque Soloists**; Peter Seymour, director & organ soloist. Celebrating 1685: Handel. *EH.*

Jan 23, 7.30pm. **London Symphony Orchestra**, conductors Tippett & Hickox; Paul Crossley, piano. Musgrave/Bennett, new work to celebrate the occasion (of Tippett's 80th birthday); Tippett, Piano Concerto, Symphony No 4. *EH.*

Jan 23, 7.45pm. **London Mozart Players**, conductor Glover; Marisa Robles, harp; Susan Milan, flute; Lillian Watson, soprano. Mozart, Les petits riens K Anh 10, Non so d'onde viene K 294, Concerto for flute & harp K 299, Io non chiedo K 316, Symphony No 31 (Paris). *EH.*

Jan 24, 7.30pm. **Philharmonia Orchestra**, conductor Sinopoli. Schubert, Symphony No 5; Mahler, Symphony No 5. *EH.*

Jan 25, 7.30pm. **BBC Symphony Orchestra & Chorus**, conductor Pritchard; Faye Robinson, soprano; Alfredda Hodgson, contralto; Kenneth Riegel, tenor; John Shirley-Quirk, baritone. Beethoven, Symphony No 8; Tippett, A Child of Our Time. *EH.*

Jan 27, 3pm. **Guarneri String Quartet**. Beethoven, Quartets in F Op 18 No 1 & Op 135, in E minor Op 59 No 2 (Rasumovsky). *EH.*

Jan 27, 3.15pm. **Daniel Barenboim**, piano. Beethoven, Sonatas in D Op 28 (Pastorale), in C Op 53 (Waldstein), in F sharp Op 78, in E Op 109. *EH.*

Jan 27, 7.30pm. **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor Weller; Radu Lupu, piano. Strauss, Death & Transfiguration; Mozart, Piano Concerto in A K 488; Tippett, Symphony No 2. *EH.*

Jan 29, 7.30pm. **London Philharmonic Orchestra**, conductor Chailly; Ken Noda, piano; David Nolan, violin. Ravel, Pavane pour une Infante défunte, Alborada del gracioso, Tzigane, Daphnis et Chloé Suite No 2; Chopin, Piano Concerto No 2. *EH.*

Jan 29, 7.45pm. **Jorge Bolet**, piano. Debussy, Chopin, Préludes. *EH.*

Jan 30, 5.55pm. **Lionel Rogg**, Choristers of New College Oxford. Celebrating 1685: Bach. *EH.*

Jan 30, 7.45pm. **Academy of St Martin-in-the Fields**, director Sillit; Maurice Bourque, oboe. Handel, Concerto Grosso in A minor Op 6 No 4; Albinoni, Sonata à cinque in A Op 2 No 3; Bach, Concerto in D minor for violin & oboe BWV 1060; Bellini, Concerto in E flat for oboe & orchestra; Verdi, String Quartet in E minor. *EH.*

Jan 31, 7.30pm. **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, conductor Solti. Shostakovich, Symphony No 9; Bruckner, Symphony No 9. *EH.*

Jan 31, 7.45pm. **English Chamber Orchestra**, conductor Mackerras; Cécile Ousset, piano. Rossini, Overture La Cenerentola; Beethoven, Piano Concerto No 2; Schubert, Symphony No 9. *EH.*

WIGMORE HALL

36 Wigmore St, W1 (935 2141, cc).

Jan 2, 7.30pm. **Richard Markham & David Nettle**, two pianos. Holst, The Planets; Walker, Passacaglia; Grainger, Fantasy on Porgy & Bess.

Jan 6, 3.30pm. **Akiko Ebi**, piano. Scarlatti, Three Sonatas; Pascal, La Suite; Beethoven, Sonata in C Op 53 (Waldstein); Chopin, 24 Preludes Op 28.

Jan 8, 7.30pm. **Ann Mackay**, soprano; **Geoffrey Parsons**, piano. Mozart, Cantata Die ihr des uner-messlichen Weltalls K 619; Schubert, Six Lieder; Wolf, Three Mignon Lieder, Six Lieder; R. Strauss, Three Ophelia Lieder, 10 Lieder.

Jan 10, 7.30pm. **Landini Consort**; Rogers Covey Crump, John Potter, tenors; Michael George, bass; John Bryan, vielles, lute, harp, psalter, citole; Peter Syrus, organetto, recorders, shawms, percussion. Popular songs & dances from 14th-century Italy by Landini & his contemporaries.

Jan 12, 7.30pm. **William Bennett**, flute; **Clifford Benson**, piano. Bach, Sonata in D; Mozart, Adagio & Rondo; Schubert, Sonata in A minor D 821 (Arpeggione); Ries, Introduction & Polonaise; Reinecke, Sonata Op 167 (Undine); Taffanel, Fantasy on themes from Françoise de Rimini by Ambroise Thomas.

Jan 13, 3.30pm. **Angela Brownridge**, piano. Haydn, Sonata in E flat Hob XVI:49; Balakirev, Sonata in B flat minor; Tchaikovsky, Waltz in Five-Eight Time, Meditation, A Little of Chopin (from Suite Op 72); Chopin, Sonata No 2.

Jan 16, 7.30pm; Jan 20, 3.30pm. **Sergiu Luca**, violin. Bach, Sonatas & Partitas for Unaccompanied Violin: Jan 16, Partitas Nos 2 & 3, Sonata No 2; Jan 20, Sonatas Nos 1 & 3, Partita No 1.

Jan 17, 7.30pm. **Songmakers' Almanac**; Stephen Varco, baritone; Marilyn Dale, soprano; Graham Johnson, piano; Joy Farrall, clarinet. Schubert's

Having got its 25th anniversary behind it, Ronnie Scott's (439 0747) begins 1985 as if the club's owners, the droll Scott and the earnest Pete King, have every intention of notching up another quarter of a century. **George Melly** is rounding off his extended Christmas season with **John Chilton's Feetwarmers** until January 5, and then **George Coleman**, the hard-blowing saxist from Memphis, Tennessee, is scheduled to arrive for a fortnight from January 7, playing opposite singer **Linda Lewis**. They are followed by **Chico Freeman** for a fortnight from January 21.

The twin Pizza establishments also have a great deal going on this month. Cabaret performer **Peter Greenwell** will be keeping the Noël Coward flame alive at Pizza on the Park (235 5550) until January 12; comedienne **Sheila Steafel** arrives for a fortnight from January 14 to 26 with a flotilla of jazz pianists to help her; and then there is the brilliant American pianist and composer, **Roger Kellaway**—a unique composer if you rate him by his string of cello quartets—coupled with the great British piano talent, **Eddie Thompson**, from January 28, also for a fortnight.

For the Pizza Express (437 7215) in Dean Street, it is best to telephone and check bookings since there is something different virtually every evening, but already we know about **Ken Colyer's Quartet and Skiffle Group** on January 2, **Humphrey Lyttelton's Band** on January 5, **Digby Fairweather** on January 9, the **Alex Welsh Alumni Band** on January 11, and even the evocatively named **Kettner's 5** directed by Tiny Winters on January 18.

Meantime, for those tired of going out to parties, and with record tokens or hard cash to spare, one or two of the best records of 1984 came right at the end of the year. A group calling themselves **XTC**, who sound more and more like a 10cc of the 1980s, have a neat rock package in "The Big Express" (Virgin). I also recommend new albums by two women singers: Elaine Paige's "Cinema" (K-Tel), which is a follow-up to her theatrical "Stages" of 1983 and has fine Tony Visconti production; and soul-rocker Chaka Khan's "I Feel For You" (Warner Brothers), whose title track surprisingly hit number 1 in the British charts late last year, topping the wetter sounds of Wham! and Duran Duran.

What is amusing about the record scene at present is the tidal wave of re-issues and oldies, while kids' bands like Duran Duran and Frankie Goes to Hollywood also find the going good (almost as though the marketing men now believe there to be two totally different worlds of record-buyers). EMI are re-issuing shoals of Blue Note discs from the 1950s and 60s, in the original sleeves, which is part of the point both for buffs and new, younger fans. Organist **Jimmy Smith's** "Prayer Meeting" of 1965,

First Singers: A portrait in song & words of Johann Michael Vogl, Schubert's chosen interpreter & the first great Lieder singer.

Jan 20, 7.30pm. **Beaux Arts Trio**. Haydn, Piano Trio in A Hob XV:18; Smetana, Piano Trio in G minor Op 15; Schubert, Piano Trio in B flat D 898.

Jan 24, 7.30pm. **Kenneth Gilbert**, harpsichord. Bach, Partitas Nos 5 & 6; D. Scarlatti, Nine Sonatas.

Jan 25, 7.30pm. **Leslie Howard**, piano. Mozart, Variations on unser dumme Pöbel meint K 455, Sonata in D K 311, Sonata in F K 533/494; Schubert, Sonata in A minor D 784, Fantasia in C D 760 (Wanderer).

Henry Herford, baritone; Marcia Crayford, violin. Berio, Sequenza VIII; Mozart, Clarinet Trio in E flat K 498; Respighi, Songs; Ponchielli, Quintet for piano & wind; Dallapiccola, Cinque canti for baritone & ensemble; Mendelssohn, Piano Trio in D minor Op 49.

Jan 27, 3.30pm. **Maggie Cole**, harpsichord; **Nigel North**, lute. Bach, Harpsichord Partitas in A minor BWV 827, in G BWV 829, Lute Suite in F BWV 1006a, Lute Sonata in G minor BWV 1001.

Jan 27, 7.30pm. **Julian Bream**, guitar. Jan 30, 7.30pm. **Peter Katin**, piano. Chopin, Variations brillantes Op 12 (Je vends des scapulaires), Three Mazurkas Op 59, Sonata in B flat minor Op 35 (Marche funèbre), 24 Preludes Op 28.

Ballet

URSULA ROBERTSHAW

MAKE CHRISTMAS LAST with a visit to either the Royal Ballet's new production of *The Nutcracker* at the Royal Opera House or Ronald Hynd's traditional one at Festival Hall; plus—a holiday must—an evening with Ashton's *Cinderella* at Covent Garden to renew acquaintance with two of the most enduring and endearing figures in ballet: his Ugly Sisters.

□ Early publication of this issue enables me to alert dance-lovers to two television treats over the Christmas period itself: *Don Quixote*, with Mikhail Baryshnikov as Don Basilio and Cynthia Harvey as Kitri in the American Ballet Theatre production, will be on Channel 4 on December 22, provisionally at 9.45pm; and the Kirov Ballet performs *Giselle*, with Galina Mezentseva and Konstantin Zaklinsky, on Christmas Day, again on Channel 4, tentatively at 5.15pm.

Ballet Gala Night

Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (928 3191, cc 928 8800).

Programme includes excerpts from *Coppélia*, *Swan Lake*, *Spectre de la Rose*, *Sleeping Beauty*, with guest dancers & introduction by Beryl Grey, Jan 6.

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLETS

Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (928 3191, cc 928 8800).

The Nutcracker. Ronald Hynd's Christmas cracker. Until Jan 16.

PILOBOLUS DANCE THEATRE

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Ave, EC1 (278 8916/20, cc).

A fascinating combination of dance & gymnastics forming living sculpture—and humour is not forgotten. Jan 8-12.

ROYAL BALLET

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (240 1066, cc 240 1911).

The Nutcracker. Peter Wright's new production, with designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman. Jan 1, 9, 18, 26, 30.

Swan Lake. the hardy perennial, here with additional choreography by Ashton & Nureyev &

designs by Leslie Hurry. Jan 4 2.30 & 7.30pm, 8, 12 & 7.30pm, 15.

Cinderella. Ashton's version, deservedly a favourite. Jan 10, 14, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Ave, EC1 (278 8916/20, cc).

La Fille Mal Gardée; Les Patineurs/new Jackson ballet/The Lady & the Fool. Until Jan 5.

TZIGANKA & THE BALALAIKA DANCE GROUP

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (928 3191, cc 928 8800).

Music, song & dances from Russia, Georgia & the Ukraine. Dec 31, Jan 1.

Films

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (928 3191, cc 928 8800).

The Royal Ballet with Swan Lake Act II, The Firebird, Ondine. with Fonteyn & Sones. Jan 8, 7.15pm.

The Red Shoes. with Shearer, Helpmann, Massine. Jan 9, 7.15pm.

The Bolshoi's Spartacus. with Vasiliev, Bessmertnova, Liepa & Timofeyeva. Jan 10, 7.15pm.

Opera

MARGARET DAVIES

THE MOST keenly anticipated event of the month is undoubtedly Reginald Goodall's return to English National Opera to conduct *Tristan and Isolde*, which will be produced by Götz Friedrich, with designs by Heinrich Wendel and costumes by Jan Skalicky. Johanna Meier makes her London début as Isolde, which she sang last year at Bayreuth.

□ At Covent Garden *La traviata* is being revived in place of the scheduled *Manon*, postponed through lack of funds until 1987. In *Die Zauberflöte* the American soprano Angela Maria Blasi makes her début as Pamina.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (836 3161, cc 240 5258).

Mazeppa. conductor Elder, with Malcolm Donnelly as Mazeppa, Janice Cairns as Maria, Rowland Sidwell as Andrei, Felicity Palmer as Liubov, Richard Van Allan as Kochubei. Jan 2, 4, 8, 10.

Tosca. conductor Delogu, with Phyllis Cannan as Tosca, Charles Craig as Cavaradossi, Neil Howlett as Scarpia. Jan 3, 5, 9, 12, 18, 22, 25.

Rigoletto. conductor Mauzeri, with John Rawnsley as Rigoletto, Valerie Masterson as Gilda, Arthur Davies as the Duke. Jan 11, 17, 19, 24, 31.

Tristan & Isolde. conductor Goodall, with Johanna Meier as Isolde, Alberto Remedios as Tristan, John Tomlinson as King Marke, Linda Finnie as Brangaene. Jan 26, 30.

ROYAL OPERA

Covent Garden, WC2 (240 1066/1911, cc).

Die Fledermaus. conductor Rudel, with Barbara Daniels as Rosalinde, Elizabeth Gale as Adele, Thomas Allen as Gabriel, Dennis O'Neill as Alfred. Jan 3.

Die Zauberflöte. conductor Hickox, with Jonathan Summers as Papageno, Gösta Winbergh as Tamino, Angela Maria Blasi as Pamina, Luciana Serra as the Queen of the Night, Robert Lloyd as Sarastro. Jan 5, 7, 11, 19, 21.

La traviata. conductor C. Davis, with Ileana Cotrubas as Violetta, Neil Shicoff as Alfredo, Norman Bailey as Giorgio Germont. Jan 29.

Reviews

Rescued from oblivion by Opera North & brought to Sadler's Wells Theatre for a brief season, Krenek's famed jazz-opera *Jonny spielt auf* proved of greater interest as a curiosity than for the sum of its ill-assorted parts. Set in the Weimar Republic of the 1920s, it attempts to show the influence of the new world on the old in the persons of Johnny, the jazz musician, Max, the opera composer, & the singer, Anita, who flits between them, sharply portrayed by Penelope Mackay. John Stoddart's evocative designs & Terry Gilbert's choreography contributed to the well-executed chorus numbers in what emerged as a nostalgic specimen of musical comedy.

Glyndebourne Touring Opera & the Royal Opera at a schools matinee have both been experimenting with super-or surtitles—offering a partial translation of the libretto—projected on to a screen above the stage. That they met with some success could be gauged from audience reactions—the schoolchildren derived considerable amusement from *Don Giovanni*—but the timing of the projections needs to be exact if laughter is not to precede or lag behind the jokes, & surtitles must inevitably distract attention from the stage.

The month also produced two superb revivals: **Boris Godunov** at Covent Garden, conducted by James Lockhart, with Nicola Ghiuselev's deeply-felt Boris, & ENO's *Arabella*, with Josephine Barstow intensifying her portrayal of the heroine.



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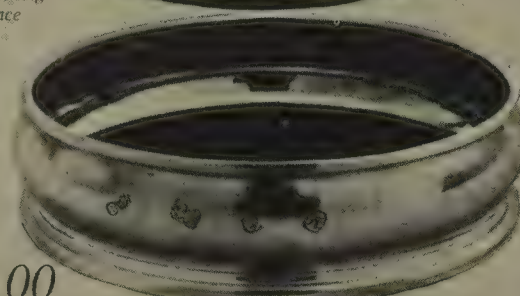
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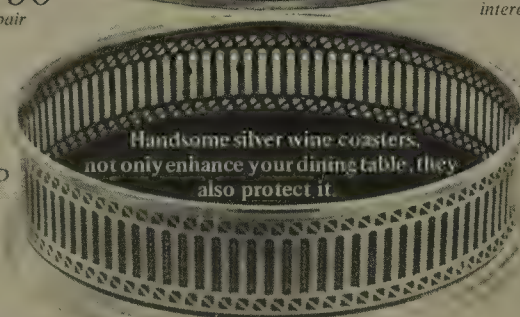
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BRIEFING

SPORT

FRANK KEATING

SUCH IS THE trough into which England's rugby union team has fallen—seven defeats in their last eight games—that the unthinkable will happen at Twickenham on the first Saturday of the year when the team from Rumania of all countries will start as favourites in their debut match against the founders of the game. Some will find in that a delicious irony—and by any standards it is a rum one—for the ultra-conservative powers that be on the Rugby Football Union have for years displayed the most haughty of patronizing attitudes towards Rumanian rugby. It even came as a surprise when the RFU bowed to pressure two years ago and gave the go-ahead for this fixture. Last year the Rumanians beat the full-strength Welsh national side. They first beat France a quarter of a century ago, and have been victorious since on a number of occasions. Indeed, Rumanian rugby owes everything to the French—it was pioneered in Bucharest by Rumanian students who had learnt the game while studying in Paris. The first club was founded in 1912 and France have been playing regular fixtures with Rumanian sides—of which there are now more than 200—since soon after the First World War. The English RFU deigned to sanction the first Rumanian tour here in 1972—to Devon and Cornwall!

HIGHLIGHTS

ATHLETICS

Jan 11,12. Cosford Games, Cosford, nr Wolverhampton, W Midlands.

Jan 18,19. World Indoor Championships, Paris.

Jan 25,26. AAA Indoor Championships, Cosford.

BASKETBALL

Dec 27-Jan 1. Phillips WICB Championship, Crystal Palace, SE19.

Jan 7. Kellogg's Cup final, Albert Hall, SW7.

DARTS

Jan 5-12. Embassy World Professional Championships, Jollees Night Club, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

FENCING

De Beaumont Centre, 83 Perham Rd, W14.

Jan 5,6. Under 20 Ladies' Foil Championships.

Jan 12,13. Under 20 Men's Foil International.

Jan 19,20. Under 20 Men's Epee International.

Jan 26,27. Men's Epee Championship.

FOOTBALL

London home matches:

Arsenal v Tottenham, Jan 1; v Ipswich Town, Jan 12.

Brentford v Walsall, Jan 12; v Newport County, Jan 26.

Charlton Athletic v Brighton & Hove Albion, Jan 1; v Cardiff City, Jan 19.

Chelsea v Nottingham Forest, Jan 1; v Arsenal, Jan 19.

Crystal Palace v Brighton & Hove Albion, Jan 12; v Oxford United, Jan 26.

Fulham v Oxford United, Jan 12.

Millwall v Cambridge United, Jan 12; v Walsall, Jan 26.

Orient v Brentford, Jan 5; v Millwall, Jan 19.

Queen's Park Rangers v Tottenham Hotspur, Jan 12.

Tottenham Hotspur v Everton, Jan 19.

Watford v Liverpool, Jan 1; v Manchester United, Jan 19.

West Ham United v Queen's Park Rangers, Jan 1; v Chelsea, Jan 12.

Wimbledon v Shrewsbury Town, Jan 12.

GYMNASTICS

Jan 19. Gold Top Milk Champions' Cup, Albert Hall.

HOCKEY

Jan 11-13. European Indoor Championships (women), Crystal Palace.

HORSE RACING

Jan 5. Anthony Mildmay, Peter Cazalet Memorial Chase, Sandown Park.

Jan 12. Embassy Premier Chase final, Ascot.

Jan 19. Peter Marsh Chase, Haydock Park.

Jan 26. William Hill Yorkshire Handicap Chase, Doncaster.

MOTOR RALLYING

Jan 26-Feb 2. Monte Carlo rally.

RUGBY

Jan 5. England v Rumania, Twickenham.

Jan 19. France v Wales, Paris.

Jan 19. Ireland v England, Dublin.

SNOOKER

Jan 4-13. Mercantile Credit Classic, Spectrum Arena, Warrington, Cheshire.

Jan 27-Feb 3. Benson & Hedges Masters' Tourna-

ment, Wembley Conference Centre, Middx.

SQUASH

Jan 4-6. Home Internationals, Belfast.

Jan 11-14. Powertrain British Doubles Championships, South Marston, Swindon, Wilts.

Jan 19-25. Blue Stratos British Under 23 Open. Oasis Squash Club, Marlow, Bucks.

SWIMMING

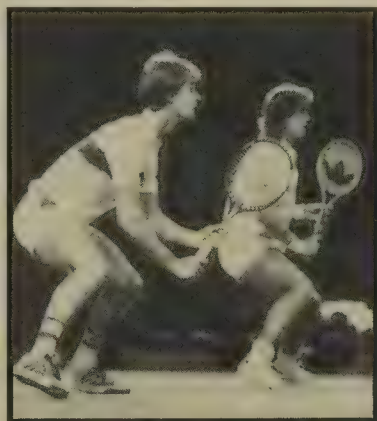
Jan 18-20. Golden Cup, Strasbourg, France.

Jan 25-27. Speedo meet, Amersfoort, Netherlands.

TABLE TENNIS

Jan 12. Charles Church Championships, Wembley Conference Centre.

TENNIS



Anders Jarryd (left) and Hans Simonsson: world championship tennis from January 1.

Jan 1-6. World Doubles Championship (men), Albert Hall.

□ It seems a touch eccentric that on the very first day of the New Year, the first sporting champions to be applauded in Britain are lawn tennis players whose names we link with the strawberry fields of high summer. This doubles circuit is now big business—no longer do the great singles players make up a pair for a bit of fun after the pressures of solo combat. There is now big money to be won by such millionaire, multi-national partnerships as Jarryd & Simonsson, Taroczy & Gunthardt & other unsmiling duos who duel across the net.

Jan 2-6 World Young Masters' Tournament, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

WINTER SPORTS

Jan 3-10. British Alpine Ski Championships, St Moritz, Switzerland.

Jan 14-20. World Championship Two-man Bobsleigh, Cervinia, Italy.

Jan 17-27. World Nordic Championships, Seefeld, Austria.

Jan 21-27. World Championship Four-man Bobsleigh, Cervinia.

Jan 26-Feb 6. British Nordic Ski & Biathlon Championships, Zweisel, W Germany.

Jan 31-Feb 10. World Alpine Championships, Bormio, Italy.

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ART

EDWARD LUCIE-SMITH

GALLERY GUIDE

BARBICAN ART GALLERY

Silk St, EC2 (638 4141). Tues-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun noon-6pm. **James Tissot (1836-1902)**. First major retrospective. Tissot's 10 years in London produced a series of ravishing paintings showing English society & scenes from the elegant part of the *demi-monde*. Until Jan 20. £1.50. OAPs, students, disabled, unemployed & children 75p.

ANGELA FLOWERS

11 Tottenham Mews, W1 (637 3089). Mon-Fri 10.30am-6pm, Sat until 12.30pm. **Amanda Faulkner**, paintings & drawings. Jan 16-Feb 9.

HAYWARD GALLERY

South Bank, SE1 (928 3144). Mon-Wed 10am-8pm, Thurs-Sat until 6pm, Sun noon-6pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan 1. **Henri Matisse: Sculpture & Drawings**. Until Jan 6. £2. OAPs, students, unemployed, children & everybody all day Mon & 6-8pm Tues & Wed £1. **Renoir**. Show of more than 90 paintings spanning the entire career of the popular French Impressionist. **John Walker: Paintings from the Alba & Oceania Series**. First European showing of the artist's recent work. Both exhibitions Jan 30-Apr 21. Admission to both £2.50 & £1.50.

JAPANESE GALLERY

66D Kensington Church St, W8 (229 2934). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. **Kacho-Ga**. Pictures & prints of flowers & birds by Japanese artists of the mid 19th to early 20th century. £5 to £100. Until Feb 28.

LEIGHTON HOUSE

12 Holland Park Rd, W14 (602 3316). Mon-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat until 5pm. **Jacqui Turner**. A first one-person show by one better known to the art world as the public relations person at Marlborough Fine Art. It includes vigorous drawings made while yacht-racing. Jan 18-26.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

St Martin's Pl, WC2 (930 1552). Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan 1. **Glyn Philpot 1884-1937—Edwardian aesthete to Thirties modernist**. Paintings, drawings & sculptures by a now unjustly neglected painter who had a special vision of the fashionable world in the early part of this century. Until Feb 10. £1.50. OAPs, students & children 75p.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Piccadilly, W1 (734 9052). Daily 10am-6pm. **Chagall**. See introduction. Jan 11-Mar 31. £2.50. OAPs, students, unemployed & everybody on Sun until 1.45pm £1.70, children £1.25.

SERPENTINE GALLERY

Kensington Gdns, W2 (402 6075). Daily 10am-4pm, until 4.30pm after mid Jan. **Yolande Sonnabend**, paintings, drawings & stage designs. Jan 26-Feb 24.

SOTHEBY'S

34/35 New Bond St, W1 (493 8080). Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. Closed Dec 22-Jan 1. **The British Sporting Heritage**. Britain's hunting, shooting, fishing, stalking & falconry traditions depicted in prints & paintings, books & manuscripts, silver & porcelain. Until Jan 18. Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm. **The Charleston Artists: Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant & their Friends**. Domestic still lifes & portraits of their circle including Vanessa Bell's last self-portrait painted when she was nearly 80. Until Jan 21.

TATE GALLERY

Millbank, SW1 (821 1313). Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Tues until 7.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan 1. **George Stubbs**. The achievements of a great English artist explored in depth. Until Jan 6. £2. OAPs, students, disabled, unemployed & children £1, Tues half-price from 5.50pm. **William James Müller (1812-1845)**. 19th-century watercolourist whose early death made him one of the great might-have-beens of English art. Until Mar 17. **Susan Rothenberg**. See introduction. Until Jan 20.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

Cromwell Rd, SW7 (589 6371). Sat-Thurs 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2.30-5.50pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan 1. **Michael "Angelo" Rooker (1743-1801) & John Varley (1778-1842)**. Rooker's classical 18th-century views of English towns & Varley's romantic mountain scenes make up the first of a series of exhibitions devoted to British watercolourists. Until Apr 14. **John French**, fashion photographer. Until Mar 10. £1.



Homage to Apollinaire, 1911-12: an early Chagall oil at the Royal Academy.

THE CHAGALL RETROSPECTIVE, which opens at the Royal Academy on January 11, is this month's blockbuster. It is the artist's first major exhibition in Britain since 1948. Always popular with the general public, 97-year-old Chagall has been out of favour for some years with the *avant-garde*. The general consensus was that Chagall "died in 1922", when he left Russia for a second time. The superb pictures of his Russian period will be well represented, but there will also be a generous selection of later work, much of it tragic rather than sweetly romantic in tone. The paintings of Chagall's old age reveal an unexpected affinity with now fashionable Neo-Expressionism.

□ The second International Contemporary Art Fair is at Olympia from January 17 to 20. More than 100 galleries from 22 countries are taking part, and the Tate is showing work (borrowed, since it does not own any) by Malcolm Morley, winner of the new Turner Prize. Britain is often rather sluggish about new art movements. Here is an opportunity to catch up on recent works by artists worldwide.

□ Susan Rothenberg, whose work is currently on show at the Tate Gallery, is probably the best of all the American "New Image" painters who have cut a big swathe through the New York art world during the past few years. Cool and reticent in her early work, Rothenberg's style has recently become looser and more emotional.



1950s style and elegance: John French fashion photographs at the V&A.

WARWICK ARTS TRUST

33 Warwick Sq, SW1 (834 7856). Wed-Sun 10am-5pm. **David Aspdin: Paintings 1978-84**. Introductory show for a painter well-known in Australia. Jan 9-Feb 10.

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE

40 High St, Brentford, Middx (568 3312). Daily 10.30am-9pm. **Jack Crabtree: Portraits of Welsh Miners**. The spirit of the mining villages captured in portraits depicting faces as human landscapes. Jan 18-Feb 17.

CHRISTOPHER WOOD GALLERY

15 Motcomb St, SW1 (235 9141). Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm. **Town & Country**. British architectural designs & topographical views of country houses. Jan 15-Feb 2.

Out of town

CHELTHAM ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Clarence St, Cheltenham, Glos (0242 37431). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm. Closed Jan 1. **W. R. Lethaby 1857-1931: Architecture, Design & Education**.

The career of this founder of the Central School of Art & Design & leading proponent of the Arts & Crafts movement is explored through architectural drawings & photographs. Dec 27-Feb 2.

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

Trumpington St, Cambridge (0223 69501). Tues-Sat 2-5pm, Sun 2.15-5pm. **Prints by Rembrandt Van Rijn (1606-1669)**. The artist's treatment of the human figure explored, from brief sketches to more formal portraits. Until Feb 24.

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

30 Pembroke St, Oxford (0865 722733). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Closed Dec 24-Jan 1. **Art in Production: Early Soviet Textiles, Ceramics & Fashion, 1917-1935**. Shows how Soviet designers adapted old forms & invented new ones to symbolize the transformation of Russia after the Revolution. **Duane Michals**. First UK one-man show for this American photographer celebrated for his narrative photosequences, often with an erotic twist. **Peter Greenham**, drawings & paintings. All until Feb 3.

THIRD EYE CENTRE

350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow (041-332 7521). Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm. **Television South West Arts**. Sixty paintings, representational & abstract, selected from more than 2,500 works submitted by artists from all over Britain. Jan 12-Feb 2. **Joseph Herman: Memory of Memories**. This Polish refugee's lost Jewish childhood evoked in 70 of his drawings. Jan 12-Feb 9.

PHOTOGRAPHY

HAMILTONS

13 Carlos Pl, W1 (499 9493). Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Thurs until 8pm, Sat 10am-5pm. **European Photography**. Work by Europe's leading photographers. Jan 7-20. **The 2nd AFAEP Awards**. Winning photographs produced by members of the Association of Fashion, Advertising & Editorial Photographers. Jan 21-27.

PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY

5 & 8 Gt Newport St, WC2 (240 5511). Tues-Sat 11am-7pm. Closed Dec 23-26, Jan 1. **Home Front**. Photographs by Derek Bishton & John Reardon depicting the mixed racial community of Birmingham's Handsworth area. Until Jan 19. **Staying On**. A historical survey of immigrant communities in London. Until Jan 26. **Paul Tanqueray**. Portraits of the rich & famous in the 1920s to 1940s. Jan 2-25.

CRAFTS

BOILERHOUSE PROJECT

V & A, Cromwell Rd, SW7 (589 5273). Sat-Thurs 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan 1. **Post Modern Colour**. Six specially commissioned British designers have created furniture made from a new plastic material invented by Formica. Award-winning American & French pieces are also on show for comparison. Until Jan 13.

GREENWICH THEATRE ART GALLERY

Crooms Hill, SE10 (858 7755). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. **South London Fibre Workshop**. Show of tapestries, wallhangings & rugs. Jan 2-Feb 1.

Out of town

KATHARINE HOUSE GALLERY

The Parade, Marlborough, Wilts (0672 54397). Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm. **Contemporary English Furniture**. Broad range of styles of furniture individually made by small workshops all over the country. Dec 30-Feb 1.

OXFORD GALLERY

23 High St, Oxford (0865 242731). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. **Sale**. Paintings, prints, jewelry, textiles & ceramics reduced by 30 per cent. Jan 7-Feb 6.

SAINSBURY CENTRE FOR VISUAL ARTS

University of East Anglia, Norwich (0603 56161). Tues-Sun noon-5pm. **American Quilts**. Wide range of designs, often with symbolic meanings, including the traditional 19th-century log-cabin quilt, & works by the Amish, Navaho & Sioux. Jan 15-Mar 10.

2nd International Contemporary Art Fair

Olympia, W14 (inquiries to 486 1951). Daily 11am-8pm. Contemporary art for sale by 1,000 international artists at prices from £10 to £30,000 (see introduction). Jan 17-20. £3 (four-day pass £7). OAPs & students £1.

LONDON MISCELLANY

PENNY WATTS - RUSSELL



JLN PICTURE LIBRARY

IN THE CONVIVIAL and friendly atmosphere of their City offices, Christie's have inaugurated small, informal seminars that focus on forthcoming auctions in their St James's and South Kensington salerooms. Intended to stimulate interest in the fine arts rather than as a selling exercise, the seminars are conducted by Christie's specialists who show and discuss sale items. Subjects covered range from Old Master paintings and English watercolours to Art Nouveau, silver and stamps, and are as diverse as the sales themselves (see below). Details from Christie's in the City, 10/12 Cophall Avenue, EC2 (588 4424).

□The Westminster Play Association, which aims to provide exciting recreational opportunities for children in the City of Westminster, has recently opened the first purpose-built sports complex for five- to 12-year-olds. A large, unconventional, tent-like structure of aluminium and PVC, the Westminster Children's Sports Centre, Crompton Street, W2, accommodates a wide variety of supervised activities, including volleyball, judo, gymnastics and trampolining, within its light, airy and spacious interior. Details of opening hours and programmes from Westminster Play Association, 147 Church Street, W2 (258 3817).

EVENTS

Dec 31-Jan 6. **54th Model Engineer Exhibition.** A model enthusiast's idea of heaven is surely the Wembley Conference Centre turned over to every sort of model locomotive, traction engine, ship, plane & space vehicle. Model-car racing, radio-controlled boat & aircraft demonstrations, films & lectures make a visit to the exhibition an occasion for the whole family. Wembley Conference Centre, Middx (902 1234). Daily 10am-7pm, Thurs until 9pm. £2.75, OAPs & children £1.75. Jan 1, 3.45pm. **Hangover Run.** First of the year's weekly paperchase trails set by London Hash House Harriers. Non-competitive & suitable for both novice joggers & seasoned runners. Meet behind Jack Straw's Castle, Heath Brow, North End Way, NW3, & bring a torch. Details of 1985 programme (send SAE) from Mike Garbutt, 31 Briarfield Ave, N3. Jan 2, 8.11, 14, 15, 6pm. **Platform performances at the NT:** Jan 2, **Theatre Quiz**, teams from the RSC & NT are questioned on all aspects of theatre by Robert Cushman (Cottesloe); Jan 8, 15, playwrights **Howard Brenton** & **Arnold Wesker** (respectively) read their own works (Lytelton); Jan 11, 14, **Oliver Goldsmith—Citizen of the World**, an entertainment based on Goldsmith's writings performed by members of the *She Stoops to Conquer* company (Lytelton). National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (928 2252, cc 928 5933). £1.80. Jan 3-13. **31st London International Boat Show.** "Britain Afloat" is the theme: so, while the Band of the Royal Marines plays & the Royal Navy does its displays, let the latest in craft, equipment & accessories tempt you—and your family, for a family concession has been introduced—to the pleasures of boating & water sports. Earls Court, SW5. Mon-Fri 10am-8pm, Sat & Sun until 7pm. Jan 3, 4, £6.50 including catalogue, children £3; Jan 5-13, £3, children £1.50; Jan 7-11, 5-8pm, £1.50, children £1; family rate, one adult with accompa-

nying child, Jan 5-13, £3, Jan 7-11, 5-8pm, £1.50. Jan 11-Feb 10. **Brent Festival of Music & Dance.** Speech & drama, solo singing, Irish dancing & Indian vocal are just a few of the performing arts represented. Programme of events available from Arts & Entertainments Service, Brent House, 349 High Rd, Wembley, Middx (903 1400 ext 685). Jan 17, 6.30pm. **National Trust for Scotland, London Members' Centre evening.** Dr Richard Marks, Keeper of the Burrell Collection in Glasgow, talks about the Collection & its founder. St Columba's Church, Pont St, SW1. Jan 17, 7.30pm. **Royal Tournament Preview.** Twelve regiments celebrating their 300th anniversary in 1985 stage a pageant of their history, with their massed bands. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (930 7148). £5-£10. Jan 17-20. **West London Antiques Fair.** More than 70 stands with antiques & fine art at prices from £10 to £5,000. Fine-quality, decorative painted furniture is a speciality. Kensington Town Hall, Hornton St, W8. Daily 11am-8pm, Sun until 6pm. £1.50, including catalogue. Jan 18-Feb 5, daily 10am-10.30pm. **New Horizons.** About 35 non-European artists & craftspeople, living & working in London, exhibit work showing their cultures. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1. Jan 19-Feb 3, daily 10am-10.30pm. **Folio Festival of Illustration.** A leading publisher of artist-illustrated books, the Folio Society presents the work of 100 British artists who have met the challenges of book illustration—among them Edward Bawden, Duncan Grant & Caryl Weight. Upper foyer, Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1. Jan 21-23, 10.30am. **King Priam: Homer's Troy & Tippet's Opera.** Insight into opera study days at the British Museum. Each day's programme includes a slide lecture on the world of Homer's heroes, a workshop on Tippet's opera presented by Kent Opera & a discussion on the significance

of the opera's story for a 20th-century audience. Details & tickets from Education Service, British Museum, Gt Russell St, WC1 (636 1155 ext 511). £2, students £1. Jan 26, 7.30pm. **Burns Night Concert.** A celebration with the Band & trumpets of the Royal Military School of Music & the pipes, drums & dancers of the Royal Caledonian School. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (928 3191). £2.50-£6. Jan 27-29. **6th Toy Fair.** Quality toys for all ages & all pockets, from porcelain dolls made for collectors to small items that pocket money can buy. For children the fair offers all the delights of a toyshop, for adults the pleasure of seeing excellent British craftsmanship. The organizers, British Toymakers' Guild, ensure the high standard of exhibits & make their Toymaker of the Year Award. Kensington Town Hall, Hornton St, W8. Jan 27, 29, 11am-6.30pm, Jan 28, 10am-5.30pm. £1, OAPs & children 50p.

FOR CHILDREN

Dec 27-Jan 5. **Ten Day Wonder Family Festival:** Dec 27-29, 11am, **Magic Box** playshop; 2.30pm, David Wood's **Magic & Music Show**; Dec 30, 31, 11am, **Circus skills** workshop; 2.30pm, Reg Bolton's **Suitcase Circus**; Jan 1-3, 11am, **Acrobatics & tumbling** workshop; Jan 1, 2, 2.30pm, Derek Carpenter's **Pantomania**; Jan 3, 2.30pm, Derek Carpenter's **Clown & Puppet Show**; Jan 4, 5, 11am, **London Festival Ballet** workshop; 2.30pm, **The Singing Kettle**, songs & rhymes. Admission to morning workshops in Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer are free but should be booked in advance; afternoon shows are held in the Purcell Room. £1, children 50p. South Bank, SE1 (928 3191, cc 928 8800). Dec 27, 28, 29, 31, Jan 2, 3, 3pm. **The World of the Magic Lantern.** Janet Tamblin & Mike Bartley recreate the Victorian art & science of this early form of slide show. Science Museum, Exhibition Rd, SW7 (589 3456). Dec 27-30, Jan 1-6, 3pm. **Chuck Jones's Great Bugs Bunny Roadrunner Chase.** 90 minute movie of animated thrills & spills with Chuck Jones's rabbit hero. ICA, The Mall, SW1 (930 3647). £2.75, children £1.40. Jan 2, 2.30pm. **Smugglers yesterday & today.** Graham Smith, Librarian, HM Customs & Excise, gives a lecture for children. Free tickets in advance from the Assistant Secretary, Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam St, WC2 (930 5115). Jan 2, 5pm. **New Year's Teddy Bears' Concert.** Entertainment with London Concert Orchestra, conductor Tovey, narrator Ian Wallace & a number of distinguished bears. Barbican, Silk St, EC2 (628 8795, 638 8891, cc). £5, if accompanied by a teddy bear £3.80. Jan 13, 3.15pm. **Gerard Benson**, story-teller, & **Jean Phillips**, at the piano, give a performance of Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel* & of their own version of a Mummies' play (for children aged 5 to 11). Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (928 3191, cc 928 8800). £1.85. □Details of other children's events over the Christmas holiday are in the December *ILN*. □Children's shows appear on p61.

LECTURES

BRITISH MUSEUM
Gt Russell St, WC1 (636 1555). Jan 15, 22, 29, 6.15pm. **The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art 966-1066:** Jan 15, Anglo-Saxon paintings & drawings of the 10th & 11th centuries, Professor Reginald Dodwell; Jan 22, **The art of the book in the late Anglo-Saxon period**, Mildred Budny; Jan 29, Anglo-Saxon women, Professor Christine Fell. **MUSEUM OF LONDON**
London Wall, EC2 (600 3699). Jan 15, 6.30pm. **The Keeper's Annual Lecture:** The history of the Museum of London costume collection, Kay Stanniland. £3, members, OAPs, non-member students & unemployed £2, student members with vouchers £1. Jan 18, 25, 1.10pm. **London through the ages:** Jan 18, **The development of Roman London**, Peter Marsden; Jan 25, **The later years of Roman London**, John Schofield. Jan 24, 31, 1.10pm. **Museum workshop:** Jan 24, **Trade from the Roman Empire**, Jenny Hall; Jan 31, **Taking tea**, Amanda Herries.

PURCELL ROOM

South Bank, SE1 (928 3191). Jan 14, 21, 28, 6pm. **National Trust Lecture Series 1985:** Jan 14, **Looking at Towers**, Alec Clifton-Taylor; Jan 21, **Conservation in Historic Houses**, David Winfield; Jan 28, **Shakespeare Our Contemporary**, A. L. Rowse. £2. **SCIENCE MUSEUM**
Exhibition Rd, SW7 (589 3456). Jan 4, 5, 2.30pm. **An introduction to amateur radio**, members of the Radio Society of Great Britain. **VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM**
Cromwell Rd, SW7 (589 6371). Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, 1.15pm. **The writer & the arts of his time:** Jan 8, **Shakespeare & the age of Elizabeth I**, Sarah Bowles; Jan 15, **"The skilful Gardner"**—Andrew Marvell, Helen White; Jan 22, **The Way of the World 1670-1729**—a background to Congreve, Frances Musker; Jan 29, **Goldsmith**—"the breeze that wafted both health & harmony", Ronald Parkinson. Jan 13, 20, 27, 3.30pm. **The artist in context:** Jan 13, **Nicholas Hilliard & the English Renaissance**, Elizabeth Murdoch; Jan 20, **Raphael & the Italian Renaissance**, Ronald Parkinson; Jan 27, **Dürer & the Northern Renaissance**, Michelle Sykes. Jan 14, 1.15pm. **The consciousness of landscape—the making of the National Parks of England & Wales**, Adrian Phillips, Director of the Countryside Commission. **WELLINGTON MUSEUM AT APSLEY HOUSE**
Hyde Park Corner, W1 (499 5676). Jan 10, 24, 1.15pm. **The First Duke of Wellington & Apsley House**, H.V.T. Percival. 60p, OAPs, students, unemployed & children 30p.

SALEROOMS

BONHAM'S
Montpelier St, SW7 (584 9161). Jan 10, 6.30pm. Marine paintings, to coincide with the Boat Show. **CHRISTIE'S**
8 King St, St James's, SW1 (839 9060). Jan 31, 11am. English furniture. **CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON**
85 Old Brompton Rd, SW7 (581 2231). Jan 11: 10.30am, Doulton ware; 2pm, Art Nouveau & Art Deco. Jan 18, 2pm. Dolls. Jan 21: 2pm, English pottery & porcelain; 6pm, End of bin & wines for everyday drinking. Jan 28, 2pm. Staffordshire ware. Jan 30, 10.30am. Toleware & papier mâché. Jan 31, 2pm. Scientific instruments, tools & other apparatus. **PHILLIPS**
7 Blenheim St, W1 (629 6602). Jan 9, noon. Toys, models & railways. Jan 10, 10am. Furs. Jan 22, 2pm. Clocks & watches. Jan 29, 1.30pm. Jewels. **SOTHEBY'S**
34/35 New Bond St, W1 (493 8080). Jan 10, 10.30am & 2.30pm. Clocks & watches including a Louis Berthoud small marine chronometer estimated at £7,000-£10,000. Jan 23, 10.30am & 2.30pm. Mechanical musical instruments, dolls, toys & related material including a musical box made for a Persian prince.

SALES

Dec 27: **Barker's**, Kensington High St, W8 (937 5432), open Jan 1; **Dickins & Jones**, Regent St, W1 (734 7070), closed Jan 1; **D. H. Evans**, Oxford St, W1 (629 8800), open Jan 1; **Jaeger**, Regent St, W1 (734 8211), closed Jan 1; **John Lewis**, Oxford St, W1 (637 3434), closed Jan 1; **Liberty**, Regent St, W1 (734 1234), open Jan 1; **Moss Bros**, Bedford St, WC2 (240 4567), open Jan 1; **Scotch House**, Regent St, W1 (734 0203), open Jan 1; **Simpson's**, Piccadilly, W1 (734 2002), open Jan 1. Dec 28: **Heal's**, Tottenham Court Rd, W1 (636 1666), open Jan 1; **Peter Jones**, Sloane Sq, SW1 (730 3434), closed Jan 1; **Selfridges**, Oxford St, W1 (629 1234), open Jan 1. Jan 3: **Harvey Nichols**, Knightsbridge, SW1 (235 5000), closed Jan 1; **Lillywhites**, Piccadilly Circus, SW1 (930 3181), open Jan 1. Jan 4: **Harrods**, Knightsbridge, SW1 (730 1234), closed Jan 1.

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BRIEFING

MUSEUMS

KENNETH HUDSON

AS THE THIRD in its impressive Artist At Work series, the Norwich Castle Museum presents Jeremy Hough, punt-builder, for a week from January 22 to 27. Originally a silversmith and jeweller, Hough was drawn to wood in 1980 and visitors to the Museum can watch him making beautiful punts in solid mahogany on oak frames.

□ The Elton Gallery at Ironbridge is mounting an unusual exhibition of photographs devoted to the once familiar bootscraper. Taken by Dr R. Randell, a retired lecturer in metal physics, who plodded round British towns to find examples, they show this fast disappearing friend *in situ*.

□ At Stoke-on-Trent the City Museum has dipped into its wonderful ceramics bran-tub to come up with The Art of the China Painter, an exhibition examining the development of hand-painting on European porcelain, with all the exhibits taken from the museum's own collections.

□ Finally, the V & A gives visitors a chance to see how it applies one of its great specialities—the conservation of textiles.

MUSEUM GUIDE

BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

Cambridge Heath Rd, E2 (980 3204). Sat-Thurs,
10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan
1. *Spirit of Christmas with The Nutcracker Prince*.
Until Jan 20.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Gt Russell St, WC1 (636 1555). Mon-Sat 10am-
5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan 1.
Chinese Ornament: The Lotus & the Dragon. A
survey of the origins of Chinese flower ornament
which ranges as far afield as Classical Greece &
Ancient Egypt. Until May 5.

British Library exhibitions:

*Samuel Johnson 1709-84: A Bicentenary Exhibi-
tion*. Books, manuscripts & personal possessions,
including his teapot. Until Feb 24. *The Golden Age
of Anglo-Saxon Art: 966-1066* (jointly with BM).
Splendid items from collections in Britain, Europe
& the United States. Until Mar 10. £2, OAPs,
students, unemployed & children £1.

COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE

Kensington High St, W8 (603 4535). Mon-Sat
10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm. *Paintings by Claude
Koenig*. Charcoals & oils by a young Mauritian
artist who incorporates African imagery into her
work. Jan 4-29.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Lambeth Rd, SE1 (735 8922). Mon-Sat 10am-
5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan 1.
Christmas Truce 1914. The story of the fraterniza-
tion between British & German troops on the
Western Front during the first Christmas of the
war. Until Feb 24. *Des Coeurs Fidèles: Alsace-
Lorraine & French Patriotism 1914-1918*. Dem-
onstrated by posters, prints, commemorative
medallions & photographs. Jan 10-Jun 30. *Des-
patches from the Heart*. Love letters written from
the front during both world wars. Until Apr 15.

LONDON TOY & MODEL MUSEUM

23 Craven Hill, W2 (262 7905). Tues-Sat 10am-
5.30pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Closed Dec 25. *On
Guard*. Toy soldiers from 1893 to the present day.
Until Sept 8. £1.50, OAPs & children 50p.

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Wellington St, Covent Gdn, WC2 (379 6344).
Daily 10am-6pm. Closed Dec 25, 26. *Tom Eckers-
ley: 50 Years of Poster Design for London Trans-
port 1934-1984*. Some 60 posters & a video show-
ing the artist selecting posters for the exhibition &
commenting on his work. Until Apr 21. £2, OAPs,
students & children £1, family ticket £4.80.

MARBLE HILL HOUSE

Twickenham, Middx (892 5115). Sat-Thurs 10am-
4pm, Feb onwards until 5pm. *Sir Robert Walpole
1676-1745: Prime Minister & Collector*. National
Portrait Gallery touring exhibition. Jan 22-Mar 4.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Cromwell Rd, SW7 (589 6323). Mon-Sat 10am-
6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan 1.
Whales & their Relatives. The original Whale Hall,
built half a century ago, has been redesigned to tell
visitors all about whales, with computers &
videodiscs & the song of the humpback whale to
liven up the atmosphere.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

Cromwell Rd, SW7 (589 6371). Sat-Thurs 10am-
5.50pm, Sun 2.30-5.50pm. Closed Dec 24-26, Jan
1. *Selected Textiles & their Conservation*. An 18th-
century embroidered hanging from Stoke Edith,

Herefordshire, forms the centrepiece of this exhibi-
tion explaining the varied aspects of textile con-
servation on a wide range of materials, including
tapestries & lace. Until Mar. *British Biscuit Tins*.
Colourful examples of this form of popular art,
with novelty shapes & commemorative designs.
Until Feb. *Alan Craxford*, contemporary jewelry.
Jan 12-Mar 7.

Out of town

IRONBRIDGE GORGE MUSEUM

Elton Gallery, Ironbridge, Telford, Salop (095245
2751). Daily 10am-5pm. *Bootscrapers*, in photo-
graphs (see introduction). Jan 16-May 5. *Decora-
tive Metalwork*. Until May 5.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF

PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM & TELEVISION

Prince's View, Bradford, W Yorks (0274 727488).
Tues-Sat noon-8pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. *Royal Photo-
graphic Society's 128th International Exhibition*.
Jan 8-Feb 3. *Beyond Vision*. More than 50 scien-
tific photographs showing things the naked eye
cannot see. Jan 16-Mar 20. *The View from Above*.
The world seen from high buildings, airborne
cameras & space. Jan 16-Feb 14. *Ark Royal*. An
analysis of Edward Chamberlain's 1950
photograph, *The Birth of the Ark Royal*. Jan 22-
Mar 17.

NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM

Norwich (0603 611277). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun
2-5pm. *Jeremy Hough—punt-builder*. See intro-
duction. Jan 22-27. 30p, OAPs & students 15p,
children 5p.

STOKE-ON-TRENT CITY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Broad St, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (0782
273173). Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Wed until 8pm.



Ophelia by A. Boullemier: hand-painted
portrait on porcelain at Stoke-on-Trent.

The Art of the China Painter. See introduction. Jan
12-Mar 9. *A Clue to History: Portraits of Writers
from Shakespeare to Beckett*. A National Portrait
Gallery touring exhibition of some 60 portraits
showing how leading literary figures from the 17th
to the 20th centuries have been viewed by artists.
Among the sitters are Keats, Cowper & Lear. Jan
19-Feb 16.

HOTELS

HILARY RUBINSTEIN

If you have had an exhausting Christmas, you may decide to give yourself a break early in 1985. The West Country has much to recommend it and it is especially agreeable in the early spring. Most of the hotels selected are open all the year round, but Tarr Steps and Downrew are closed until March.

Bath boasts a number of outstanding hotels, of widely differing styles and prices.



JLN PICTURE LIBRARY

The Royal Crescent, in the incomparable setting of John Wood's beautiful set-piece, is architecturally and decoratively outstanding and has views across the city from the front and the Avon hills from the rear. Some rooms on the top floor are small and poorly insulated, so if you can afford the tariff treat yourself to one of the Pavilion Suites with private spa pool or an exquisitely decorated double bedroom in the main building. The Royal Crescent can provide a sybaritic experience long to be remembered.

Also in Bath, but more central and within an easy walk of most of the historic sites, is **The Hole in the Wall**. Long established as a fine restaurant, it has for the past three years offered accommodation in eight double rooms on its second and third floors (there is no lift). Front bedrooms are double-glazed to muffle the sound of traffic; rear ones overlooking the backs of houses are quiet. They are not large, but the décor is fresh and attractive and bathrooms are spacious and well equipped. Although you are not obliged to dine here you would be well advised to treat yourself to one dinner in the excellent basement dining room.

The Long House on the edge of Pilton, a quiet and beautiful hamlet halfway between Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet, is likely to be less of a strain on the purse. The hotel, an intriguing 17th-century building, is run by Paul Foss and Eric Swainsbury, who pay devoted attention to their guests. Some of the bedrooms are small but all have baths or showers *en suite*. There is a bar/lounge and a small garden. Dinner is served at 7.30pm, and helpings are generous.

Tarr Steps Hotel at Hawkridge near Dulverton, Somerset, is a former Georgian rectory, set in 8 acres of grounds beside the river Barle, with trout and salmon fishing on both banks. Wildlife abounds in the area; riding, hunting and shooting are available to guests; there are stables and kennels for visiting horses and dogs, but no television.

It is friendly and comfortable with a country-house atmosphere. Only snack lunches are available—all you need, as dinner is ample and excellent.

Downrew House at Bishops Tawton, near Barnstaple, Devon, is a former gentleman's

residence, dating mostly from the Queen Anne period, in an exceptional position, 500 feet above sea level on the southern slopes of Coddan Hill. All bedrooms, some of which are in the west wing annexe and the lodge, have uninterrupted views of fields and hills. The hotel's 15 acres of grounds and gardens include a 15-hole approach-and-putt golf course, an all-weather tennis court and a croquet lawn. Indoors there are a billiards room, card room and games room and a drawing room, library and bar which provide you with plenty to do even if the weather is bad. Desmond and Aleta Ainsworth have cosseted guests at Downrew for almost 20 years.

Woodhayes at Whimble in Devon, is a Georgian country-house hotel run by John Allen. It has a 1½ acre paddock and lawns, arboretum, gazebo, croquet and bowls. A kitchen garden provides many of the good things on the smallish but carefully thought out dinner menu; food is cooked to order, wines are reasonably priced. Bedrooms have bath, colour television, a supply of magazines and beds of the high, old-fashioned Edwardian or Victorian type.

One of this year's César award winners, **Summer Lodge** at Evershot in Dorset, is another country-house hotel. The former dower house of the Earl of Ilchester, in a pretty and unspoilt village, it has nine attractive bedrooms, a large drawing room with a log fire, and a television room. The hotel stands in 4 acres of grounds with a grass tennis court, croquet, badminton and a heated outdoor swimming pool. The food is extremely good, much of it home-grown; fresh flowers in lovely arrangements abound; and above all the warmth and kindness of Nigel and Margaret Corbett inspire many return visits.

□ **The Royal Crescent Hotel**, Royal Crescent, Bath, Avon (0225 319090). Double room £90 (one on top floor £68); suites £148-£250. Continental breakfast £4, English breakfast £8; lunch £19, dinner £22.

□ **The Hole in the Wall**, 16 George Street, Bath, Avon (0225 25243). Double room with Continental breakfast £40-£65 (single occupancy from £28). Three-course dinner £17.50.

□ **The Long House**, Pylle Road, Pilton, Somerset (074 989 283). Dinner, bed and breakfast £16.50-£20.

□ **Tarr Steps Hotel**, Hawkridge, Dulverton, Somerset (064 385 293). Bed and breakfast about £21.50. Dinner £9.50.

□ **Downrew House**, Bishops Tawton, Barnstaple, Devon (0271 42497). Dinner, bed and breakfast from £29.32.

□ **Woodhayes**, Whimble, near Exeter, Devon (0404 822237). Double room £50-£55 per night. Dinner £14.

□ **Summer Lodge**, Evershot, Dorset (093 583 424). Dinner, bed and breakfast £31.50-£35.

Rates are per person, except where otherwise stated, and include VAT. Service is included at The Royal Crescent, The Long House and Woodhayes. The others make no service charge.

Hilary Rubinstein is editor of *The Good Hotel Guide*, published annually by the Consumers' Association/Hodder, price £8.95. The *Guide* would be glad to hear from readers who have recent first-hand experience of any unusually good hotels. Reports to Good Hotel Guide, Freepost, London W11 4BR.



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Woodside is a quiet country home in a lovely woodland garden. Good food and every home comfort. B+B circa £9 'phone Doreen Bromilow: 092684-2446

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Nr PENZANCE, Cornwall.

Ednovean House, Perranuthnoe is a star rated private hotel with superb sea views. 3 AA merit awards, quiet position. B+B £14. 'phone 0736-711071

Nr SHERBORNE, Dorset.

Holway Mill, Sandford Orcas. Tranquil, vegetarian guest house with croquet lawn, swimming pool & library. Home produce. B+B £12.50 Tel: 096322-380

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Carwinion. A National Trust house in 20 acres sub-tropical gardens. Superb food, luxury bedrooms. B+B circa £25 'phone Rogers, Falmouth 0326-250258

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Hillside Hotel, Angarrack. Small and comfortable with varied, interesting menus. Walled garden, some en-suite rooms. B+B circa £11 Tel: 0736-752180

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White Lodge Hotel, Swanage stands in a secluded garden close to National Trust beaches. Friendly service, good food & wine. B+B £10. Tel: 0929-422696

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BRIEFING

RESTAURANTS

ALEX FINER



NICOLA GREGORY

SUCH IS THE VOLATILE NATURE of the restaurant business that there is the risk of reviewing a restaurant here only to find it has closed before the column appears. Without wishing to tempt the fickle finger of fate, I propose to steal a march on the brand-new clutch of 1985 restaurant guides. I bring you news of three restaurants that have opened too recently to be considered for inclusion in the annual foodie bibles.

"Ees just a *leetle* baby," said the manager of **La Finezza** near Sloane Square. The place practically crackles with newness. Smart yellow awnings out front herald an unmistakably Italian décor of tiles, marbled wallpaper, ceiling spotlights and crisp, pale yellow linen in the airy ground floor dining room. The menu is pleasingly ambitious with a selection of daily specials and a choice of several game dishes in addition to more standard pasta, *pesce* and *pollo* fare. Offal is also well represented by brains, liver, kidneys and sweetbreads. The house pancakes with orange rind and a syrupy sauce deserve special mention. The manager's "leetle baby" does however have some teething troubles. Service was overbearing and the wine list (despite some reasonably priced Italian wine from £4.50) needs attention: a date, grower, shipper or other clues to quality are called for on a bottle of Chablis priced at £12 and described nonsensically only as "a strong—perhaps immortal wine". Other French wines, including a misspelt Gevrey-Chambertin at £26.30, were similarly shrouded in total mystery. Another bad mark in my book is to charge 12½ per cent service on the £37 bill for two and then leave the service line and total on the credit card form blank, thus inviting a second tip.

Seven Down Street in Mayfair is an extraordinary new residential club at that address boasting an elegant bar and restaurant which are open to non-members at lunchtime. Some banquet seating, chic place settings and starched linen beneath a ceiling canopy belie the basement setting. The lunch menu is strong on well presented and inventive *nouvelle cuisine* dishes with two courses for £11.50 and three for £14.50. Typical of chef Peter Sibley's dishes are warm scallops, mange-tout and hazelnut salad to start and the odd-sounding escalope of veal with caraway and aniseed to follow. I visited during wild mushroom week and enjoyed a starter of jellied grain-fed chicken with Horn of Plenty and Jew's Ear fungi. Steamed scallops were magnificent served in the shell with a forest mushroom sauce, and my guest was equally impressed with a main course of noodles, ceps and chanterelles. Both bar and restaurant are restricted to members after 6.30pm and they are also eligible to book one of the six highly individual, fantasy bedroom suites (from £175 to £250 a night).

The luxurious health club Hannibals near Oxford Circus has also opened its new and stylish **Le Cirque** restaurant to a wider public (provided that you book a day ahead and pay a £1 membership cover charge). Chef Herbert Lackner lives up to his promise of gourmet cuisine with a £13 set lunch, £16 set dinner, short *à la carte* and a £24 seven-course *menu surprise* in the evenings. Food is *nouvelle* in style, pretty on the plate and served in comfortable surroundings under a partially mirrored ceiling. The expensive attention to detail includes Christofle silverware and delicate, long-stemmed glasses (which must be a nightmare to wash). Such indulgence seems to contradict the exercise ethos elsewhere in the building which houses a sumptuous pool, gymnasium, sunbeds and some £60,000 of Nautilus exercise equipment. But it may be that the Austrian fruit yoghurt strudel will convince diners to join the health club on their way out.

☐ **La Finezza**, 62/64 Lower Sloane St, SW1 (730 8639). Mon-Sat 12.30-2.45pm, 7-11.30pm. cc All. ☐ **Seven Down Street**, 7 Down St, W1 (493 3364). Sun-Fri 12.30-3pm. cc All. ☐ **Le Cirque**, 27 Kingly St, W1 (434 3511). Mon-Sat 12.30-2.15pm, Mon-Fri 8-10.15pm. cc AmEx, Bc.

GOOD EATING GUIDE

A changing selection of *ILN* recommended restaurants appears each month. Estimated prices are based on the average cost of a meal for two, including a bottle of house wine. The symbol £ indicates up to £20; ££ £20-£40; £££ above £40.

Information about the time of last orders and credit cards has been provided by the restaurants. AmEx = American Express; DC = Diner's Club; A = Access (Master Charge); Bc = Barclaycard (Visa). Where all four main cards are accepted this is indicated as CC All.

Beau Rivage

248 Belsize Rd, NW6 (328 9992). Mon-Fri noon-3pm, Tues-Sun 6.30-11pm.

Some of the best fish dishes in London can be found in this small, sparsely decorated establishment. Huge portions & friendly service. CC AmEx, Bc ££

Bubb's

329 Central Markets, Smithfield, EC1 (236 2435). Mon-Sat 12.15-2pm, 6.45-9.30pm.

A real taste of France in a crowded & jovial setting close to the meat market at Smithfield. Must book & be prepared to negotiate an alarmingly small spiral staircase if you eat upstairs. CC None ££

The Buttery, Berkeley Hotel

Wilton Pl, SW1 (235 6000). Mon-Sat 12.30-2.30pm, 7.30-11.30pm.

An emphasis on Venetian cuisine in the stylish second restaurant at the Berkeley. Try a selection of fresh pasta to start & a main course from the display of fresh fish. CC A, Bc £££

Café Pelican

45 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (379 0309). Daily 11am-1.30am.

A strong French flavour to this Art Deco style brasserie with its long mahogany bar backed by mirrors & marbling. Erratic service. CC All ££

The Capital Hotel

22 Basil St, SW3 (589 5171). Daily 12.30-2pm, 6.30-10.15pm (Sun from 7pm).

Eat extravagantly of French cuisine from an English chef in Nina Campbell's pink & brown décor. CC All £££

Caribbean Sunkissed Restaurant

49 Chippinham Rd, W9 (286 3741). Mon-Sat noon-3pm, 6pm-midnight.

You can find callaloo soup, deep-water shark, peas & rice & all the best West Indian vegetables here, just off Maida Vale. CC A, Bc £

Connaught Hotel Restaurant

16 Carlos Pl, W1 (499 7070). Daily 12.30-2.30pm, 6.30-10.30pm.

A wonderful place for a treat. Elegant surroundings, fine complicated dishes from Michel Bourdin, helpful hints from the sommelier & serried ranks of waiters anxious to please. CC A £££

Don Giovanni's

4 Pantan St, SW1 (930 7925). Mon-Sat noon-3pm, 6-11.30pm.

Cheap, quick & friendly Italian food in a small mirrored basement. Pre-theatre three-course meals at £5.95 convenient for the Haymarket. CC All £

Drones

1 Pond St, SW1 (235 9638). Daily 12.30-2.45pm, 7.30-11.15pm.

White wooden lattice-work, mirrored columns, patchwork quilt hangings & red cane chairs. Good charcoal-grill meats. CC All ££

Gay Hussar

2 Greek St, W1 (437 0973). Mon-Sat 12.30-2.30pm, 5.30-11.30pm.

Lively Hungarian restaurant with strong literary connexions. Hearty appetites an advantage, as well as a readiness to experiment with dishes of pressed boar's head, dumplings, saddle of carp & Transylvanian stuffed cabbage. CC None ££

Green's Champagne Bar

36 Duke St, St James's, SW1 (930 1383). Mon-Fri 11.30am-3pm, 5.30-7.30pm.

Floquet et Fils house champagne goes well with the West Mersea No 1 oysters, smoked salmon, lobsters, crab or quail's eggs. A quick & expensive treat. CC None £££

The Hellenik

86 St John St, EC1 (253 0754). Mon-Fri 11.30am-3pm, Mon-Sat 5.30pm-midnight.

Charcoal-grilled meats are a strong point in this

typically Greek diner with bouzouki in the background. CC All £

Joe Allen

13 Exeter St, WC2 (836 0651). Mon-Sat noon-1am, Sun until midnight.

A cheapish, fun place to eat, especially late at night. The Caesar salad, ribs, liver & onions, carrot cake & pecan pie are all recommended from the American menu chalked on blackboards in this large, crowded basement. CC None £

Koto

75 Parkway, NW1 (482 2036). Mon-Sat 12.30-3pm, 6.30-10.30pm.

Good value Japanese cuisine—& saké—delicately presented. A choice of set meals makes ordering easy for novices. CC All ££

Masters

190 Queen's Gate, SW7 (581 5666). Mon-Sat 7pm-midnight, Sun noon-3pm.

Italian à la carte served in attractive basement room with simulated log fires. Excellent £8.95 Sunday lunch menu with main course choice of English roasts. CC All ££

Mirabelle

56 Curzon St, W1 (499 4636). Mon-Sat 12.30-2.15pm, 7-11.15pm.

Fine food & an outstanding wine list. Choose the £13.50 set lunch menu if you want an economical way to visit this pukka establishment. CC All £££

Quincy's

675 Finchley Rd, NW2 (794 8499). Tues-Fri, Sun noon-2pm, Tues-Sat 7.30-10.30pm.

An attractive three-course dinner menu at £11.50. Full marks for a cosy, neighbourhood effect achieved through dark green décor & soft lights. CC All ££

Rowley's

113 Jermyn St, SW1 (930 2707). Daily noon-2.30pm, 6-11.30pm.

Tiled walls, hanging plants & painted ceiling. Commendably simple £8.75 menu of salad, steak & chips, with cheese or a dessert from the trolley extra. CC All ££

Sheekey's

29 St Martin's Ct, WC2 (836 4118). Mon-Sat 12.30-3pm, 5.30-11.30pm.

A theatrical ambience for a wide range of fish dishes—from scallops to turbot & salmon—along with an oyster bar for the single-minded in search of an expensive mollusc snack. CC All £££

Surprise

12 Gt Marlborough St, W1 (434 2666). Mon-Sat noon-3pm, 6-11.15pm, Sun 11.45am-3pm for brunch.

Smart décor for American-sized sandwiches, American-style salad bar or regional favourites like cajun jambalaya, Texan lamb chop & chicken Maryland. Surprise, surprise—no hamburgers! CC All ££

The Terrace

Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W1 (629 8888). Mon-Sat 6-11.30pm.

The height of luxurious dining created by chef Anton Mosimann & maître d'hôtel Lorenzo Susini. A six-course surprise menu (£56 for two) if you prefer not to choose for yourself. A long & expensive wine list, sumptuous surroundings, music & a small dance floor. CC All £££

Tiberio

22 Queen St, W1 (629 3561). Mon-Fri noon-3pm, Mon-Sat 7pm-1am.

Good Italian food in a racy nightclub atmosphere. Evening pianist & dance band. CC All £££

Wheeler's

19 Old Compton St, W1 (437 2706). Mon-Sat 12.30-3pm, 6-11pm.

Three floors of fish, starched tablecloths & attentive service. Good value but not cheap. If living it up, try Wheeler's No 1 oysters & lobster. CC All ££

White Tower

1 Percy St, W1 (636 8141). Mon-Fri 12.30-2.30pm, 6.30-10.30pm.

London's original, plush & upmarket Greek restaurant, renowned for Aylesbury duckling & more traditional ethnic specialties. Retsina available & good French wine list. CC All £££

Zen

Chelsea Cloisters, Sloane Ave, SW3 (589 1781). Mon-Fri noon-3pm, 6-11.30pm, Sat 11.30am-11.30pm, Sun noon-11pm.

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A black and white illustration depicting a man in a tuxedo running through a crowd of people in a social setting. The man is in the foreground, running towards the right, looking back over his shoulder. He is wearing a dark tuxedo jacket, a white shirt, and a dark bow tie. Behind him, a group of people are seated or standing, watching him. A woman in a dark dress is running towards him, and a man in a suit is running away from him. The background shows a dimly lit room with other people and a bar area. The style is a simple line drawing with some shading.

Also planned for the February issue:

**To: Subscription Manager, The Illustrated London News
23-29 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3QJ.**

- Registered office, Elm House, 10-16 Elm Street, London WC1X 0BP

OUT OF TOWN

ANGELA BIRD

□ Some hotels plan their own live entertainment. The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Ensemble gives four concerts at the historic Castle Hotel, Taunton (0823 72671) from January 25 to 27 (from £129 for two nights); Felix Schmidt gives a cello recital in the Elizabethan setting of Alveston Manor Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 204581) on January 26 (from £64 for one night); a "murder" weekend is offered, with actors playing out a whodunit for guests to solve, at Blossoms Hotel in the centre of Chester (0244 23186) from January 18 to 20 (£95 for two nights).

Dec 27-30, Jan 2-6, 2pm. **Star of Bethlehem.** Planetarium show examining three possible astronomical explanations of the star described in St Matthew's gospel: Halley's comet, a supernova or three conjunctions of the planets Jupiter & Saturn, all thought to have occurred at about the time of Christ's birth. Jodrell Bank, Lower Withington, nr Macclesfield, Cheshire. £2, OAPs & children £1.

Dec 29-Jan 13. **60th International Chess Congress.** This year the grandmasters play in the Queen's Hotel, the challengers in Falaise Hall. Hastings, E Sussex.

Jan 3-5, 10am-5.30pm. **Collectable crafts for Christmas.** Final days of an exhibition which includes turned wooden bird bowls, individually designed dog collars & finely woven rugs, in converted Victorian brewery buildings near the centre of this attractive Cotswold town. Cirencester Workshops, Brewery Court, Cirencester, Glos.

Jan 6/7, 7.30am. **International Icicle Balloon Meeting.** From first light between 80 & 100 gaily coloured balloons ascend into the crisp winter skies. Bradford's Farm, Newbury, Berks.

Jan 6, 15, 20. **Merrie England Mummers tour:** Performances of the ancient ritual drama of Resurrection (the new year) triumphing over Death (the old). Jan 6, 12.30pm, Jugs Arms, Kingston, nr Lewes; 1.30pm, The Holly, Rodmell, nr Lewes, E Sussex; Jan 15, 8pm, Thatched Inn, Keymer, nr Burgess Hill, W Sussex; Jan 20, 12.30pm, White Hart Inn, Horsebridge, nr Hailsham; 1.30pm, The Gun, Gun Hill, nr Hailsham, E Sussex.

Jan 6, 20. **Epiphany services & candlelit processions:** Jan 6, 6pm, Chichester Cathedral, Chichester, W Sussex; Jan 20, 6.30pm, York Minster, York.

Jan 22. **Princess Anne**, Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, visits the School of Farriery & opens the Company's library, study & exhibition centre. Hereford.



“Ever since the chairman bought Fisher, we’ve been freezing our assets off.”

As the Old Man is so fond of reminding one, success in life is largely a matter of getting one’s priorities right. Even at the risk of a little personal discomfort.

In this instance, his priority was expensive Fisher TV, hi-fi and video equipment.

See the direct drive turntable there, through the freezing fog? It’s sitting on top of a CA-67 amplifier, rated at 60 watts per channel, with a five band graphic equalizer.

The FM-67 tuner has 16 memory presets and digital synthesized tuning.

The CRW-67 twin cassette deck was optional, so he had to have one. It’s got the lot – automatic search and Dolby* B noise reduction included.

The old boy tells us the CD Digital Audio Player has forward and reverse track selection and a programme memory.

The Fisher 725 two-speed VHS video recorder with infra-red remote control will record up to eight hours of programmes at one go. Though I don’t suppose we’ll need the built-in Dew Protection System.

The 21” remote control colour TV has a ‘Flat Square Tube’ (for superb picture definition) and teletext, so we can catch the latest chilling news from the Stock Exchange.

All in all, I have to admit it: even though this blessed Fisher gear has cost us the year’s heating budget, I’m genuinely beginning to warm to it.

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